FBIS DAILY REPORT

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MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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BETHLEHEM MAYOR CRITICIZES CARTER STATEMENT ON PALESTINIAN STATE

NC301841Y Cairo DPA in Arabic 1820 GMT 30 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Bethlehem, 30 April--Ilyas Furayj, the mayor of Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank of the Jordan River and a prominent Palestinian opposition leader, has strongly criticized the statements of U.S. President Jimmy Carter, which were quoted by the press, on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

In a statement to DPA, Furayj expressed surprise over President Carter's apparent change of mind since last March, when he supported the establishment of a "national homeland" for the Palestinians.

The mayor of Bethlehem accused Carter of accepting the autonomy plan which Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin proposed for the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza sector as a basis for solving the Palestinian problem, when almost everybody in the West Bank rejects this plan.

Furayj added that Begin's aim is to perpetuate the Israeli occupation and ascribe a legal status to the Israeli settlements in the area. Furayj also said that if the reports about Carter's statements are true, then there is (?no) reason for continuing the peaceful initiative of Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat.

ISRAELI SOLDIER HELD BY PFLP MAKES STATEMENT TO PRESS

NC281150Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1018 GMT 28 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 28 April--Lebanese newspapers today publish statements which Israeli soldier (Avraham 'Amram) made in the presence of several journalists at the PFLP headquarters. ('Amram) was captured by the PFLP.

The Israeli prisoner of war said that the Palestinians were fighting because they have been ousted from their homes. The Palestinians and the Israelis both have their causes. We can live together, as there is room for all. The ordinary Israeli citizen wants peace.

(Avraham 'Amram) wondered how long Israel would buy tanks and sacrifice its citizens and why there are continuous wars. He spoke about discrimination in Israel between eastern and western Jews. He stressed that all citizens feel such discrimination and vast differences. He said these differences were set up by the government, as most of its members were western Jews who enjoy various concessions.

The Israeli prisoner of war said that Prime Minister Menahem Begin's success in the elections alarmed the Israelis, who expected a new war in the area because of Begin's military record in Dayr Yasin, the King David hotel and some other areas. He stressed that Menahem Begin cannot make peace and said that the Israelis believe that President Anwar as-Sadat is the only leader who can make real peace in the Middle East.

The Israeli prisoner of war described the Israeli operations in southern Lebanon as severe and disgraceful. He said that orders were given to Israeli soldiers to wipe out everything in their path, even unarmed Palestinians.

The Lebanese newspapers which published the Israeli prisoner's statements report that a PFLP spokesman announced that the front will try the Israeli prisoner before a military court for fighting against the Arabs.

The spokesman said that the prisoner was a member of an Israeli patrol, the leader and five other members of which were killed.

The spokesman said that the Israeli reports to the Red Cross about the number of missing men were incorrect. He said that the number of Israelis killed in southern Lebanon was much greater than the official figure released by Israel.

PALESTINIAN SPOKESMAN CRITICIZES ARREST CAMPAIGN IN EGYPT

JN2821137 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Commenting on the recent campaign of arrests launched by the Egyptian regime, a responsible source in the Palestine national liberation movement, Fatah-the Revolutionary Council, has made the following statement:

The authorities of the Egyptian regime have arrested a number of the members of the Palestine national liberation movement, Fatah-the Revolutionary Council, in a large-scale campaign of arrests, which has so far included more than 35 Arab citizens of Egypt, Palestine and Jordan, in addition to a number of strugglers from Europe.

As-Sadat's information media said that the authorities found a large number of revolutionary leaflets with the arrested persons, instigating the people against the regime and its policies. Some of these leaflets had been distributed in Cairo, Alexandria and Asyut. The authorities said that they found some typewriters and weapons. The information sources said that the arrested persons will be tried in a military court on the following charges: conspiracy to overthrow the regime, obstructing Egypt's foreign policy efforts, striking at the home front, setting up an illegal organization, shelling the Mena House, which was the headquarters of the As-Sadat-Zionist meetings, and a number of other charges.

We would like to make the following observations:

1. The organization of the Palestine national liberation movement, Fatah-the Revolutionary Council, has a presence in all the Arab countries and in many countries of the world. This organization bases its work on a strategy of struggle, which at this stage stems from the need to liberate the Arab territories from the direct and indirect occupation, unify the Arab land and set up people's democratic authority on this land. This organization's struggle derives its legitimacy anywhere in the Arab homeland from its just and legitimate aims and from its principle of expressing the will of the Arab masses. This organization, unlike those with limited and distorted tactical aims, was able to achieve influence among the Palestinian and Arab masses because of its strategic principles. This thus reveals the Egyptian regime's distortion of facts, which is aimed at twisting the awareness of the Egyptian and Arab masses and hiding the true state of affairs in Egypt.

2. The number of Egyptians who have been arrested and charged with belonging to the organization is greater than the number of Palestinians arrested on the same charge. This refutes the Egyptian regime's charge--aimed at erecting barriers between the Palestinians and the Egyptians--that the Palestinians are trying to ignite the internal situation in Egypt.

The organization is struggling to unify the ranks of the Arab masses in all the Arab countries against the Arab regimes which are connected with imperialism. This struggle is based on the above-mentioned aims. This organization tries to unify the struggle of the Palestinian and the Egyptian masses against the As-Sadat regime, against the reactionary forces in the Palestinian arena and against all the Arab reactionary forces. This applies not only to the Palestinian and Egyptian masses but also to all the Arab masses in the Arab countries.

The strugglers do not await permission from the Egyptian regime or from any other regime to carry out their tasks. The legitimacy of their struggle is not derived from the ruling authorities in any country, because the revolutionary struggle transcends all geographical barriers drawn by the reactionaries and the imperialists.

3. The Egyptian regime is trying to distort the facts about what is really happening in Egypt and to hide the violent collapse of the regime. The Egyptian regime is suffering economic collapse, as proved by the resignation of the ministers concerned with the economy. Egypt is facing impending collapse because of the new economic policy of the regime. As-Sadat's speeches in which he speaks of the green revolution and the economic front are only useless attempts to stretch the patience of the Egytpian masses with the difficult state of affairs.

This economic collapse, felt by every Egyptian citizen, is tied to the great political collapse marked by the treacherous step of As-Sadat when he entered into negotiations with the Zionist enemy and went to the Knesset. The great Egyptian Arab people have a long list of charges against As-Sadat and he will have to face these charges and pay for his treason. The rulers of Cairo are trying to hide this fact. They are presenting lies and distortions of fact to prepare the atmosphere for more campaigns of arrests and oppression among the ranks of the Egyptian masses. They are trying hard to make the people deviate from the struggle and to prolong the life of their government of oppression and repression.

4. The campaign of arrests and repression against the citizens and masses is commensurate with the campaigns of arrests, assassinations and repression carried out by the reactionary 'Arafat gang at the Palestinian level. Such a campaign has recently taken place against the Fatah fighting bases in southern Lebanon. It has taken place at a time when contacts are intensifying between the two sides [Egypt and 'Arafat], proving the profound reactionary ties between them and their pursuit of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plot aimed at liquidating the revolutionary fighting forces and striking at nationalist and democratic forces among the Arab masses.

5. The arrest of a group of strugglers will not destroy the organization, but will renew it in Egypt and elsewhere and will give it more experience and knowledge. It is present and growing so long as the will of the mass struggle is with it. The midgets will never be able to stop the revolutionary march of liberation.

KUWAITI AL-WATAN: PLO TO OPEN OFFICE IN WASHINGTON

NC0109000Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 May 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 1 May--In a dispatch from Washington, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN reports that the U.S. Government has officially agreed to the establishment of a PLO information office in the heart of the U.S. capital, and that the office will open in the next few days.

Quoting authoritative sources, the paper says that the U.S. approval was conveyed in a memorandum from the U.S. Department of Justice to Dr Hatim Husayn, who will be in charge of this office.

The paper regards the sudden U.S. decision as a major turning point in the U.S. stand, since the U.S. Government rejected the establishment of this office in 1976.

PALESTINIAN SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCES OPERATION INSIDE ISRAEL

JN281656Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Apr 78 JN

[Text] A group of Arab fedayeen operating inside the occupied territory this morning carried out a new operation against Zionist enemy establishments. A Palestinian military spokesman said that a fedayeen group, using explosives, blew up an enemy intelligence center east of Tel Aviv. The spokesman said that the explosion destroyed the building completely and killed and wounded an unknown number of enemy personnel.

A Palestinian spokesman has stated that all targets inside occupied Palestine are military targets and that it is the right of the Arab resistance to attack them any time they wish. This was announced by the Palestinian revolution while claiming responsibility for the fedayeen operation carried out in the occupied town of Nabulus day before yesterday. The Palestinian resistance warned all world tourists against visiting occupied Palestine, because it is occupied territory. The resistance said this warning shall remain in effect until the racist Zionist occupation is ended and until Palestine returns to the Arab fold.

It will be recalled that the Palestinian fighters inside occupied Palestine carried out an operation day before yesterday against the enemy which resulted in two persons killed and five others wounded.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES LETTER FROM SOVIET LEADERS

JN292110Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2052 GMT 29 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 29 April--Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, today met with Aleksandr Soldatov, Soviet ambassador in Beirut. 'Arafat received from the ambassador a letter from the Soviet leaders that the Palestinian News Agency described as important.

PLO OFFICIAL MEETS WITH FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER

JN281658Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 28 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, met with French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris this morning.

The Palestinian News Agency (WAFA) has learned that the discussions between the two sides dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East. [passage indistinct] The French minister explained the mission of the French troops in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. [passage indistinct]

ARAB PARLIAMENTARY UNION POSTPONES MEETING

JN291706Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1548 GMT 29 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 29 April--Senate President Bahjat at-Talhuni has received a cable from the chairman of the UAE Federal National Assembly in his capacity as chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union, stating that the majority of the Arab parliaments which belong to the union have not sent a positive reply to his invitation to convene the Arab Parliamentary Union Council in Abu Dhabi on 1 May 1978. Therefore, he has decided to postpone the meeting until a date to be fixed later. JNA has learned that the Jordanian Parliamentary delegation has canceled its plans to travel to Abu Dhabi after receiving the cable from the Arab Parliamentary Union chairman.

REACTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S LONDON TIMES INTERVIEW

Kamil Summons Ambassador Eilts

NC301530Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today summoned U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Hermann Eilts and asked him for the complete text of the statements the New York TIMES [as received] has attributed to U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

The foreign minister emphasized to the U.S. ambassador Egypt's firm stand regarding the solution of the Middle East problem. This stand is summed up as follows:

1. The core of the problem is the Palestinian problem.

2. Egypt categorically reject's Begin's plan, which aims at maintaining Israeli domination of the West Bank and Gaza, and believes that this plan completely reflects the expansionist intentions of Begin's government as well as its violation of all international laws and resolutions.

3. The solution of the issue demands complete Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied after 1967 and enabling the Palestinian people to assume their legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination.

More on Kamil-Eilts Meeting

NC301620Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1558 GMT 30 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 30 April--During their meeting today, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil reaffirmed to U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts Egypt's firm belief that the Palestinian problem is the core of the Middle East problem.

The foreign minister also emphasized to the U.S. ambassador that Egypt totally rejects the plan of Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin which aims at maintaining Israel's control of the West Bank and Gaza, that Egypt believes that this plan reflects in precise terms the expansionist intentions of Begin's government and its violation of all international charters and resolutions, and that a solution to the question demands Israel's total withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate rights, mainly their right to determine their future.

The foreign minister also asked the United States to adhere to these principles which the world society has approved. He expressed deep concern over possible meanings of the recent U.S. statements which might undermine the efforts being made to achieve a just settlement and which the Israeli Government will exploit in order to go ahead with its intransigent aggressive policy aimed at foiling all sincere attempts to end the Middle East dispute on the basis of right and justice.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil also asked the U.S. ambassador for the full text of the statements attributed to U.S. President Carter published by the New York TIMES.

Cairo Radio Discussion

NC3020305Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Apr 78 NC

["Free Opinions" program chaired by Mahmud Dhuhni: Discussion with Huda Tawfiq, head of the diplomatic section of AL-JUMHURIYAH, and Hamdi Fu'ad, political commentator and head of the diplomatic section of AL-AHRAM--live or recorded]

[Text] [Dhuhni] Mr Hamdi, did today's statements by President Jimmy Carter come as a surprise?

[Fu'ad] These statements were no doubt timed to be made, announced and published at the very moment Menahem Begin was departing Israel. Therefore, we find that the first reaction came from Begin, who declared that he welcomes President Carter's statements. President Carter's statements are a development that does not augur much good as far as the U.S. stand is concerned for the following reasons:

1. President Carter has clearly ignored the existence of a disagreement between the United States and Israel over the interpretation of Resolution 242.

2. Carter, in making these statements, was trying to please Menahem Begin at a time when the whole world was expecting the meeting between the U.S. President and the Israeli prime minister to be a stormy one.

[Dhuhni] However, the official text of the statement President Carter has made to the New York TIMES [reference to New York TIMES as heard throughout item] was supposed [words indistinct] or was handed to the Egyptian foreign minister today. But the (?whole thing has come into the open). How do you view the situation as a result of the statement, which we consider as (?not) strange but unusual for the U.S. President?

[Huda Tawfiq] These statements by Carter have not come as a surprise to me. I believe that Carter had been preparing for them and that his advisers had written them for him to announce. However, the timing of these statements is strange because they come at a time when the tripartite weapons deal has been presented to the Congress, when Dayan has concluded his talks and before Menahem Begin's visit. It is clear that Carter, by saying that the West Bank and Gaza problem should be solved on the basis of Begin's self-rule plan, is moving toward supporting Begin's plan. Carter had previously rejected this plan. This had led to a conflict between the U.S. Government and Begin when Begin said that President Carter had accepted the plan but Carter denied this, saying: I had not accepted it; I merely said that it serves as a basis for starting discussion on the plan. The U.S. Government had officially denied that it had accepted the plan. What does this mean? It means that Carter is trying to please the Jews and the pressure groups in the United States by having Congress pass the weapons deal.

[Dhuhni] Mr Hamdi?

[Fu'ad] There is another point. This is that the United States has declared, and President Carter himself has declared, that Resolution 242 applies to the four fronts--meaning also the West Bank and Gaza.

[Dhuhni] Do you mean southern Lebanon is the fourth front?

[Fu'ad] No, southern Lebanon is another matter connected with [Hamdi is interrupted by Dhuhni]

[Muhammi] You said four fronts?

[Fu'ad] The four fronts are Sinai, the Golan, the West Bank and Gaza.

[Muhammi] Yes.

[Fu'ad] When the United States says that it has approved of the Israeli interpretation of the concept of self-rule for the West Bank and Gaza, it would have been preferable if Carter had also frankly said: This means withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the West Bank and Gaza. And what has happened to the policy that President Carter announced on several occasions and also read from a prepared statement in Aswan when he said that the Palestinian problem should be solved in all aspects and that the Palestinians should participate in determining their future.

[Huda Sawiq] And their legitimate rights?

[Fu'ad] And their legitimate rights. That was what he read from a prepared written statement in Aswan. It was also mentioned in an official Egyptian-U.S. joint communique and contained in the joint Soviet-U.S. statement issued in October 1977.

[Huda Sawiq] I also see that there is a clear contradiction in President Carter's statements. The reference in the Aswan statement to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people means the Palestinian people have a political character. The legitimate rights mean that they have the right to have their state. The 1947 partition resolution gives the Palestinian people a state. Therefore, President Carter now seems to be rescinding previous resolutions adopted by an international organization and approved by the United States in 1947.

[Muhammi] [several words indistinct] If what the U.S. President is saying is some sort of retreat, when the aim might be to pass the aircraft deal--the tripartite deal. The U.S. administration today said that it has been decided to submit the tripartite deal on the basis of separate deals--each state alone. How do you explain this?

[Fu'ad] The Americans explain this on the basis that any deal costing more than $25 million must be broken down before being submitted to the Congress. However, the United States stressed--we hope this stress is true--that in the event this deal [several words indistinct], then it is the right of the U.S. President to withdraw all deals. We say three deals, but there are really four deals because the U.S. Congress, in its debate, will treat the F-15 deal with Israel, the F-16 deal with Israel, the F-5 deal with Egypt and the F-15 deal with Saudi Arabia all as separate items. There are four deals, but the Americans say something strange in this respect. They say that when the U.S. administration submitted the issue to Congress, it was unaware that the deals had to be treated separately when submitted to Congress. This is strange. This is a question which concerns Saudi Arabia. Since 1975, . . President Carter has been saying that these deals affect U.S. relations with these states and . . security, safety and interests in the area. Does this mean that Israel has the right to dictate to the United States what the U.S. national interests in the Middle East are? This makes one wonder.

Another thing is that Israel will not have to pay for the aircraft it will receive from the United States. But the dimensions of Saudi-U.S. relations are enormous because Saudi Arabia supports and backs the U.S. economy and the position of the U.S. dollar by keeping the price of its petroleum exports to the United States low. President Carter came out with another surprise--and I believe he is inaccurate in this--when he spoke about sales of petroleum resources to the United States, which, he said, would be enough to substitute for the Saudi, Kuwaiti and Arab petroleum. This is incorrect. The U.S. President is deliberately distorting facts in his statements on petroleum.

[Tawfiq] I will tell you why. Atherton made a statement in Atlanta 2 weeks or so ago explaining why the United States has adopted its present policy in the Middle East and why it adheres to the tripartite arms deal. One of the points he spoke about and stressed was U.S. interests as far as Arab petroleum--particularly Saudi petroleum--is concerned. He said: Our interests in this respect are connected with the interests of Japan and the interests of our allies in Western Europe. This is a vital issue in U.S. foreign policy and U.S. interests in the area. How is it then that President Carter in his statement, which was deliberately published in this form and at this time, can say: We do not need the Saudi or Arab petroleum; we get enough petroleum from Nigeria and Latin America? There is a distortion here.

[Muhni] [Several words indistinct] what was said in the New York TIMES correct or is it a change in the U.S. stand which the U.S. President is preparing for it [words indistinct] what form would the peace measures in the Middle East take in the next stage?

[Mu'ad] Permit me to say that there has been preparation behind this statement. The American President would not make such a serious statement unless every word in it was studied and prepared by his advisers in the White House and the Pentagon. Such advisers include Brzezinski, Alfred Atherton and all the members of the group which prepare statements of this size and enormity to be made upon the arrival of Menahem Begin in the United States.

[Muhni] I know the U.S. President gives a daily press conference. [Passage indistinct] This is the first statement of this kind and the U.S. President has made it to only one newspaper.

[Tawfiq] I believe this is his first statement. He is providing Begin with a line of retreat because on the day of the discussions with Begin he says: I do not have all that much influence over Menahem Begin.

[Muhni] Does this mean that he cannot influence Begin after all this? [Words indistinct]

[Tawfiq] He says: My influence over Begin is much less that what I believed.

[Mu'ad] I say that what is imperative at this point is that the Arabs quickly adopt a stand. The issue does not concern just Egypt or any other side alone. It concerns the fate of the entire [Arab] nation. President Ja'far Numayri will be coming to Alexandria. He will hold consultations with Cairo and establish contacts with most of the Arab leaders in the area. What I mean to say is that the entire Arab nation should act as one man.

This might be a reiteration of what has been previously said, but the Arab nation must realize that it is actually being confronted with a danger which does not threaten Egypt alone but threatens the entire issue. We have seen the U.S. President revising everything he said during the election campaign and reconsidering his policy on the stands taken by Begin's government and by the previous Israeli governments. Despite all this, he has not, in practical terms, adopted a stand opposing the Israeli policy. In other words, he bases his calculations on first appeasing Israel. He does not take into consideration the size and enormity of his relations with the Arab area, particularly, I wish to say, with Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is supplying the U.S. President with all the economic, financial and petroleum support he needs to help him pursue his domestic policy.

[Dhuhni] The text of the statement which U.S. President Jimmy Carter made to the New York TIMES has not yet been received. I expect to receive a [words indistinct]. I hope that the United States [several words indistinct] and that what has been said is not true or that there will be a clarification from the United States stressing that there is no change in the position of a great power and state such as the United States.

Moroccan Ambassador's Reaction

NC302133Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 30 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 30 April--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil tonight received the Moroccan ambassador in Cairo, Abdellatif Laraki. The discussions at the meeting dealt with the situation in the Middle East and ways to bolster bilateral relations between Egypt and Morocco.

The Moroccan ambassador told MENA that he will leave Cairo tomorrow with a letter from President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat to King Hassan II of Morocco within the framework of the consultations between the two countries.

Abdellatif Laraki expressed surprise at the statements which were published in New York TIMES [as received] and attributed to U.S. President Jimmy Carter regarding the Palestinian state and the plan of Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin on autonomy for the West Bank.

The Moroccan ambassador said that he will communicate to his government the latest developments in the Egyptian stand on these statements and he pointed out the contradiction between these statements and the statements which Carter made in Aswan.

MUBARAK RECEIVES U.S. MESSAGE ON AIRCRAFT DEAL

NC300812Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 30 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 30 April--The newspaper AL-AHRAM today reports that Vice President Husni Mubarak has received an important message from the U.S. Government through U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Hermann Eilts. The message concerns the U.S. Government's position on the aircraft deal presented to Congress.

The paper says the message indicates that Congress will discuss each deal separately, as arms sales of more than $25 million must be discussed by Congress independently, and that Congress' discussion of these deals separately does not mean that President Carter will abandon his intention to cancel all three deals if Congress rejects any one of them.

The paper adds that the U.S. Government letter was conveyed to Congress Friday and that the deal will be approved unless Congress rejects it by 28 May. If Congress rejects one of the deals, the U.S. President will then withdraw the three deals. Congress wants to discuss the F-15's and the F-16's separately because each of these proposed deals exceeds $25 million. This is separate from the aircraft deal for Saudi Arabia and for Egypt.

The paper says that the U.S. ambassador passed this information to Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil at their meeting yesterday and that the United States informed Egypt of the situation in a written memorandum.

AMBASSADOR TO U.S. DISCUSSES PLANES DEAL

NC300700Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 30 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] Egyptian Ambassador to the United States Dr Ashraf Ghurbal and Harold Saunders, assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, have discussed the proposed U.S. planes deal with Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Israel, as well as the latest developments related to peace in the Middle East.

Dr Ghurbal said after the meeting that there is no change in the U.S. Government's position on the deal and that it will combine the three transactions in one comprehensive deal. He pointed out that constitutional procedures have compelled the U.S. administration to submit three separate proposals to Congress, but there is no change in the position of the U.S. administration. He referred to President Carter's affirmation during his press conference last Wednesday that the U.S. Government will proceed with the deal. He also noted the importance which the U.S. President attaches to the approval of the planes bill as one deal.

Ghurbal also commended the official U.S. description of the planes deal as balanced and the assertion that neither Egypt, Saudi Arabia nor Israel can be treated separately from the other two.

The Ghurbal-Saunders meeting comes on the heels of the Washington talks between Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

PRESS COMMENTS ON U.S. POLICY, PLANES DEAL

NC300840Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 30 Apr 78 NC

[Press Review]

[Excerpt] The Cairo papers today give prominence to the reports about the latest changes in the U.S. position on the Middle East problem and President Carter's declaration that he believes that there will be a Middle East settlement without a Palestinian independent state and that the future of the West Bank will most likely be determined on the basis of Menahem Begin's self-rule plan. The Cairo papers say that such statements are strange and contradict all the U.S. President's previous statements. They add that the foreign minister has asked the U.S. ambassador to supply him with the text of the statement, so that Cairo can respond to it.

Today's papers continue to show interest in the U.S. planes deal for Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Israel. They warn that the U.S. administration's latest modification of the proposed deal--which could result in Congress approving the deal for Israel only--constitutes a serious retraction by the United States.

AL-JUMHURIYAH emphasizes that the U.S. administration's modification of the planes deal bill for Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Israel is a serious retraction from the declared position of the United States and of President Carter himself.

It adds: From the very beginning President Carter said that the deal should be looked at as an entity and that he was against discussing any part of the deal separately. This clearly meant that President Carter linked approval of the sale of planes to Israel with approval of the sale of planes to Egypt and Saudi Arabia. It also meant that the sale of planes to Israel would be rejected if Congress were to refuse to sell planes to Egypt or Saudi Arabia or both. If this were to happen it would be the most serious U.S. decision against Israel since Israel's birth.

AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that the latest modification of the bill by President Carter has torpedoed this possibility, because now Congress has the right to discuss the deal in separate parts. It is now also possible that Congress may agree to sell planes to Israel but not to Egypt or Saudi Arabia, or both.

The paper says: Has Israel succeeded in bringing pressure to bear on President Carter and his administration, instead of Carter succeeding in bringing pressure to bear on Israel?

Concluding, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: We indeed should study this matter carefully as the hope for peace in the Middle East is now pinned on U.S. success in putting pressure on Israel.

More Press Comment

NC3023562 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2255 GMT 30 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 30 April--Monday's Cairo papers prominently publish under banner headlines Egypt's request to the United States regarding the need to adhere to the principles which the world community has approved and Egypt's emphasis that it rejects the plan of Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin aimed at securing Israel's control of the West Bank and Gaza.

The papers pay special attention to the stress placed by Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil during today's meeting with U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts on the fact that a solution to the Middle East question depends on Israel's total withdrawal and on solving the Palestinian problem.

AL-AHRAM comments on the maneuvers which Israel is carrying out to obstruct the U.S. aircraft deal to Egypt and Saudi Arabia. It says that these maneuvers violate the rules that govern the exercise of foreign policy and international relations in their established and familiar forms.

The paper adds that the deal represents a strategic U.S. decision which primarily reflects the U.S. national interests and extends beyond what is taking place in the Middle East to take into consideration the U.S. vital interests throughout the world.

AL-AHRAM refers to the attempts of the Zionist pressure groups to obstruct the sale of the aircraft to Egypt and Saudi Arabia and to the statement by Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan about Israel's possible withdrawal of its application to buy these planes if the two countries included in the deal are supplied with these planes. The paper says that when Israel finds out that there is a contradiction between its own interests and the wider interests of the United States, it throws all its weight behind what serves its own interests without giving any consideration to anything else.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM says: After all this, Begin accuses the United States of interfering in Israel's domestic affairs when its occupation of the territories of others and denial of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians are involved.

AL-JUMHURIYAH comments on developments over the past few weeks in the stands of the United States and Israel and their effect on the opportunities of solving the Middle East problem. The paper warns that what is actually taking place is no more than an attempt to defuse the big charge which the Egyptian peace movement has detonated and then control the breaking developments and return them to their slow tempo to become a repetition of the tour of former UN envoy Gunar Jarring in the Middle East and previous tours of former U.S. Secretary of State Hnery Kissinger in the area.

The paper explains that the moves in the Middle East were suspended a few weeks before Begin's previous visit to the United States, that they were suspended again as a result of the visits of 'Ezer Weizman and Moshe Dayan and that they have been suspended again now in anticipation of the results of Begin's forthcoming visit. The paper says that this shows that it has been decided that the fate of the Middle East should stand and wait in line for what will be decided in Washington or Tel Aviv.

In conclusion, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that nobody expected peace to be established in the Middle East overnight or Israel to respond quickly to the peace initiative. However, Egypt's logical view is that President as-Sadat, by his peaceful initiative, has provided the United States with the opportunity of a lifetime to exert effective pressure on Israel if it really wants to carry out a positive role in the establishment of peace in the area.

VOICE OF ARABS ON BEGIN VISIT TO UNITED STATES

LD3012447 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Apr 78 LD

[Muhammad ad-Dali commentary]

[Text] The Arab nation today stands on the threshold of a serious stage by any standard. It is a stage which will have a radical effect on the course of events: it will either lead to opening wider the door to the peace efforts being exerted to achieve a peace settlement founded on the principles of justice and right and on international charters and resolutions which unanimously affirm man's right to live in peace and to determine his own fate by himself without any interference from or custodianship over anyone else, or it will lead to untold developments.

We say this stage is serious in all senses of the word because it is a stage of defining stands and formulating ideas now that all the parties directly or indirectly connected with the Middle East question have passed the stage of exploration and consultation and the exchange of views.

For its part, and with a full sense of responsibility, Egypt has affirmed its position for all to see: It has declared throughout the world most clearly that its work for peace stems from a firm stand, but that what it seeks is a genuine peace as we and the whole world understand it--a peace that would lead to the liberation of the land, retrieve the rights and objectively deal with the Palestine question without ignoring or denying that it is the core of the conflict and that without the solution of this problem there can never be a solution or chance for the establishment of a just peace.

As for Israel, it has so far been unable to rise to the level of the Egyptian initiative and is not ready to shoulder the responsibilities of peace and to respond to the international will. Hence those who still expect Menahem Begin to change his rigid stands and views during his visit to the United States, which begins today, will be disappointed, because Israel's attitude has not changed.

There remains the U.S. stand. Here we can say that the United States is now familiar with most of the details of the crisis and knows which of the sides takes things seriously as it should, and which places obstacles in the way of peace.

On more than one occasion the United States has affirmed that it is morally committed to the establishment of peace in the Middle East, that it contemplates widening the circle of the role it is exerting within the settlement efforts, and that it has reached the stage of the formulation of a well-defined U.S. stand on the Middle East conflict. Furthermore, the United States has openly declared that it might put forward some ideas which it feels would be acceptable at the right moment.

All observers and followers of the successive events see Menahem Begin's second visit to the United States as a final link in the chain of American exploration of the views of the various sides. After that the United States will have no excuse, and it will be required to take a more decisive and more defined stand in the light of the commitments it has undertaken.

It is in view of this that we say that the current stage is serious and important, because it is a stage of stands, and because it will radically affect the course of events.

AS-SADAT ADVISER DISCUSSES U.S. POLICY

NC291105Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 29 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 29 April--President Anwar as-Sadat's adviser Dr Usamah al-Baz has emphasized that the president's visit to Jerusalem has brought about a general shift of U.S. public opinion.

In an interview with the magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF, appearing in its 1 May edition, Dr al-Baz attributes the slow pace--which the Egyptian people feel characterizes the change in U.S. policy on the Middle East after the recent developments--to the following:

1. For the past 50 years Jewish groups have utilized all their resources to influence U.S. public opinion and have used all means to bring pressure to bear on U.S. officials, especially in the fields of propaganda and information. At the same time, there has been absolutely no tangible individual or collective Arab presence, and what presence there has been is probably doing more harm than good.

2. The United States considers itself fully responsible for the Israeli entity, especially in view of what happened to the Jews in Nazi Germany before and during World War II. The United States also considers itself the legitimate heir of the traditional powers which were destroyed in the war and considers that responsibility for the Zionist entity is one of the legacies it has inherited.

3. U.S. politicians, whether in the White House or in Congress, have had no reason to support Egypt or the Arabs. During the 10 years before 1971 the American man in the street believed that Arab people felt hatred and enmity toward the American people.

4. President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem has caused changes in the attitude of the U.S. administration. To support this view, Dr al-Baz cites two points. The first concerns the question of the settlements. He says that in the past the settlements would not have been considered illegal, but now the U.S. administration is saying that the settlements are illegal and must be removed. The second point concerns the question of the planes deal. Israel has tried to draw a dividing line between the planes for itself and the planes for Egypt and Saudi Arabia, but the U.S. administration has maintained that any objection to the planes for Egypt and Saudi Arabia is considered an objection to the entire deal, in which case the White House will reconsider the deal as a whole.

In his interview Dr al-Baz also talks about the fallacy of Jewish superiority and monopoly of genius in all domains of science, art and literature. He says that the Jews are not a genius race but, like any minority, they work hard to achieve perfection to make up for their quantitative deficiency.

GHALI ON ALTERNATIVES TO PEACE TALKS

NC281615Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1356 GMT 28 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 28 April--Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that there are many elements which want to isolate Egypt and widen the gap between it and its Arab sisters and that these elements must not be given an opportunity to do this.

In a statement today to the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs said that Arab solidarity is considered as part of Egypt's security, that Egypt's security depends on the security of Palestine, and that the Arabs are strong with Egypt and Egypt is weak without the Arabs.

Dr Butrus Ghali reaffirmed Egypt's commitment to the Arab cause, saying that Egypt does not want or seek a separate solution. He added that the road to peace is not deadlocked but that sufficient time must be given for the interaction of the changes which took place and in order to test the real Israeli attitude.

Dr Butrus Ghali expressed his belief that Geneva, the United Nations and the contemplation of changes to UN resolution 242 are alternatives to the resumption of the peace talks with Israel.

AL-AHRAM ON AS-SADAT CONSULTATIONS, FUTURE MOVES

NC290822Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 29 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 29 April--The newspaper AL-AHRAM says today that in the next 2 days President Anwar as-Sadat will complete his consultations with Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil on the latest Middle East developments. It adds that these consultations complement the president's recent discussions with the Egyptian political commands on Egypt's future moves at this important phase in the efforts to push the peace process toward a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

AL-AHRAM adds: The president briefed the political commands on the basis and principles of the strategy of the future diplomatic moves which will cover most of the nonalined and African countries and particularly the Arab states which are assuming political responsibilities in the interests of the Arab nation.

AL-AHRAM says that concurrently with Vice President Husni Mubarak's tour of a number of nonalined, African, and Arab states, Foreign Minister Kamil will visit a number of other Arab states, particularly the gulf states. The aim is to keep the Arab states informed of all developments and to discuss all future possibilities with Arab officials.

AL-AHRAM also notes that a special envoy has left for Belgrade for consultation with Yugoslav officials on this matter and on the nonalined foreign ministers conference to be held in Belgrade in July.

INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT FOILS ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

NC280702Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2304 GMT 28 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 April--An attempt to kill an Arab personality in Cairo was foiled last week by the state security investigations department of the Egyptian Interior Ministry. The department arrested a man at Cairo airport who works for the intelligence service of an Arab state which has common borders with the country of the personality who was to be assassinated. This man was to be killed because of political and party disputes between factions of the same party in the two countries.

The state supreme security prosecution department under Mustafa Tahir has begun investigating the incident.

The state security investigations department had suspected a passenger at Cairo airport who tried to enter the country on 25 April with a forged Kuwaiti passport bearing the name Muhammad Salih. When the passport was examined with advanced scientific equipment, it was discovered to be forged. The investigations department was then sure that the passenger could not be a Kuwaiti. The passenger was searched and was found to be carrying $2,000 and an unidentified substance which, when analyzed, was found to be poison.

AL-AHRAM says that the passenger admitted that he was not a Kuwaiti, that he was an intelligence operative of an Arab state which he named during the investigations, and that his department had assigned him to go to Cairo after giving him the dollars and the poison which he was to use in killing his victim. His department had also furnished him with a photograph and the exact address of the personality he was to kill.

The intelligence operative, who gave his real name, admitted that he had come to kill an Arab personality with poison because of disputes between factions of the same party in the two countries. He also admitted that he had attended training courses on the techniques of terrorist action and that he had participated in a terrorist operation during which he was injured.

AL-AHRAM says that investigations of the incident are expected to reveal other activities by the "Arab" intelligence service which has assigned one of its men to assassinate a political opponent of the country to which the intelligence service belongs. The assassination plan has been foiled by the Egyptian state security investigations department. Meanwhile, investigations are underway to identify the Egyptian collaborators of this intelligence service.

Iraqi Intelligence Agent Charged

NC3009O1Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 30 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 30 April--The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports today that the supreme state security prosecution has charged Iraqi intelligence agent Salih Muhsin Khadr al-'Isawi, whose attempt to kill a Syrian in Cairo was foiled by the state security criminal investigation department, with committing a criminal conspiracy to kill in Egypt. This crime comes under the Egyptian penal code since the accused came to Egypt with the intention of executing his crime on Egyptian territory.

The paper says that it was decided to remand the accused in custody for 45 days. The prosecution had remanded the accused in custody for 4 days to appear before examining judge Jamal Bayyumi, who ordered the accused to remain in custody.

The paper adds that the state security prosecution was notified of the case 10 days ago. Chief prosecutor Muhammad 'Amr has concluded his investigations, which he will submit to Attorney General Counselor Ibrahim al-Qalyubi for action

AL-AHRAM says that the investigations revealed that the Iraqi, who arrived in Cairo with a forged Kuwaiti passport, was assigned to kill a Syrian in Cairo because of differences between the two wings of the Ba'th party in the two countries.

The paper adds that the investigation revealed that the killing was to be by strangulation and stabbing after drugging the victim with drugs supplied to the accused, which were first believed to be poison. The accused was also given a photograph of his victim.

The paper says that according to the accused, the Syrian was to be killed because he foiled some Iraqi attempts to assassinate a number of Syrians in Syria, where by virtue of his position he notified the Syrian intelligence of these attempts.

AL-AHRAM says that the Syrian who was to have been assassinated is Hashim Muhammad 'Awwad. He was allowed to leave and has, in fact, left the country.

SOME ACCUSED IN TERRORIST CASE TO BE DEPORTED

NC290824Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0735 GMT 29 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 29 April--The newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM today reports that some foreign nationals accused in the terrorist case will be deported. They will be expelled from Egypt in accordance with the state's right to expel undesired persons from the country. The paper says that this is called political deportation as these persons posed a danger to security.

IRAQ TO PARTICIPATE IN 6 MAY OPEC MEETING IN TA'IF

JN2910307 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 29 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 29 April--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, member of the Revolution Command Council and oil minister, will participate in the unofficial OPEC meeting which will be held in Ta'if on 6 May. The Iraqi delegation which will accompany 'Abd al-Karim includes Dr 'Abd al-Amir 'Ali 'Umran, chairman of the Iraqi Fund for Foreign Development; Dr 'Awni Shakir, director general of the Foreign Relations and Investments Department in the Oil Ministry; and a number of researchers and specialists in oil and economic affairs.

To Attend OAPEC Conference

JN3014387 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 30 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 30 April--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and minister of oil, will lead the Iraqi delegation to the ministerial conference of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) scheduled to begin in Kuwait on 9 May.

The ministerial conference will discuss several topics, including the adoption of two projects: The establishment of a lubricating oil plant and of an Arab oil training center. The conference will also discuss Arab oil refining policy, OAPEC's working plan for the next 5 years and the recommendations submitted by OAPEC's committee of experts on that subject. The conferees will sign the agreement related to OAPEC's (?legal) commission. They will also discuss holding an oil symposium in Oslo on energy cooperation with the Norwegian Government as well as various other topics related to the organization's activities.

TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

JN3009357 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0824 GMT 30 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 30 April--The Fifth National Congress of the Iraqi Confederation of Trade Unions has elected Mu'ayyad 'Abdallah as the new president of the confederation. 'Abdallah replaces Muhammad 'Ayish, the current member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of industry and minerals, who had served as president since the confederation's inception following the 18 July 1968 Revolution.

The congress also elected 83 members to the confederation's Central Council, 17 members to the labor courts and 19 members to the executive office. Majid Rashid Jabari was elected vice president and Salman Dawud was chosen as secretary general of the confederation.

The congress issued a statement outlining the confederation's program of action during the next phase in the domestic, Arab and international fields. The statement asserts that the defense of the revolution and the entrenchment of its achievements is the central task of the working class. This will require increased efficiency at all levels and improved production skills in order to increase and improve production and thereby carry out the national development plan and bolster the revolution's programs and plans in all walks of life.

The statement affirms that the question of Palestine is the main cause of the Arab revolution. It calls on the workers and the masses to back this cause with all their resources and energies and firmly to oppose political settlement plans and attempts to open the doors to imperialist-Zionist influence or the entrenchment of the Zionist entity in occupied Arab territory.

The statement condemns political settlement plans and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for recognition of the existence of the Zionist entity and its usurpation of Arab territory. The statement also condemns the Sinai and Golan disengagement agreements and As-Sadat's treasonous trip to the occupied territory.

The statement affirms that the Iraqi working class supports the Arab masses and working class on the West Bank in their steadfast struggle against the Zionist presence. It also affirms that Iraqi workers reject the practices of the bloc formed by the Syrian regime during the extraordinary conference of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions in Kuwait last February. It says that the attempt of certain Arab trade union federations to form a bloc outside that conference and to try to impose its will on others was an act of treason against the democratic principles and traditions of trade unionism. It was their way of trying to change the revolutionary stand adopted by the Arab working class in favor of the regimes which seek a political settlement.

The congress considered that support for the fighters in Lebanon is an urgent national task which must be fulfilled by giving these fighters the means necessary to defeat the imperialist-Zionist onslaught.

The statement points to the need to strengthen the labor movement in order to support peoples who are fighting for their freedom and independence. The statement affirms the Iraqi workers' support for the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia in their struggle against racism and backwardness.

The statement expressed thanks to the fraternal and friendly delegations which attended the meetings of the conference.

MA'RUF MEETS WITH IRAQI EXPATRIATES VISITING FROM U.S.

JN271447Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 27 April--Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf has asserted that Iraq is not only defending itself at this stage, but also shouldering the responsibility for defending all issues of the Arab nation.

This came during Ma'ruf's meeting with a delegation representing Iraqi expatriates living in California, now visiting Iraq at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry. Ma'ruf expressed his pleasure at meeting with the expatriates and acquainting them with the basic transformations already achieved by the revolution.

Addressing the expatriates, the vice president said: You are real ambassadors of your country abroad, particularly in the United States, which supports our enemies. You should seize the opportunity to perform your duty as Arab citizens toward your enemies.

ZIMBABWE FRONT DELEGATION HEADED BY NKOMO LEAVES

JN300757Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 30 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 30 April--The delegation of the Patriotic Front for the Liberation of Zimbabwe headed by Joshua Nkomo, the leader of the front, left Baghdad today following a 3-day visit to Iraq at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command.

In a statement prior to his departure, Nkomo said that his talks with officials in the National Command of the party were successful and fruitful. They dealt with means to consolidate cooperation between the front and the Ba'th Party and to escalate the struggle against imperialism, Zionism and racism.

RCC ISSUES NEW CIVIL DEFENSE LAW FOR IRAQ

JN3014577 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 30 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 30 April--The Revolution Command Council has issued a new civil defense law in Iraq. The law outlines the role of the civil defense authorities in preparing the population to adopt protective measures in the event of war, and in preparing civil defense groups and determining their missions.

The law bans all employees, workers, pharmacists, physicians, aides and nurses working in public services institutions; those working in the food and pharmaceutical industries and those trading in these products from leaving their place of work without written permission from the civil defense authorities in the event a state of emergency is declared.

ERITREAN LEADER ARRIVES BAGHDAD, MAKES STATEMENT

JN0108Z7Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 1 May 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 May--Ahmad Nasir, chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Eritrean Liberation Front, has stressed that Ethiopia is massing large units of its forces on the borders with Eritrea. In a statement to INA on his arrival in Baghdad last night, Nasir said that Ethiopian forces have increased in the areas of Asmara, Massawa port and Assab. He said that his visit to Iraq is to acquaint the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party with the dimensions of the Ethiopian concentrations.

Noting Iraq's support for the Eritrean revolution, Nasir called for further support from the fraternal countries and from national liberation forces in the world to confront the Ethiopian aggression against the Eritrean revolution.

POPULAR LABOR FESTIVAL TO BE HELD TOMORROW

JN3014537 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 30 April--As President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr's delegate, Muhyi 'Abd al-Husayn, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and secretary of the party's Central Labor Office, will open the celebrations of the Iraqi working class on the occasion of international labor day tomorrow.

On this occasion, a popular festival will be held in the international people's stadium tomorrow morning. Speeches on behalf of President al-Bakr and of the Iraqi Trade Union Confederation will be delivered. The celebrations will be attended by labor delegations from the sister and friendly countries which participated in the fifth national conference of the Trade Union Confederation.

IRAQ RATIFIES FISHING AGREEMENT WITH PDRY

JN3015107 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1154 GMT 30 Apr 78 JN

[Summary] Baghdad, 30 April--The Revolution Command Council has ratified the agreement on fishing in the territorial waters of the PDRY which was signed in Baghdad on 4 July 1977.

CARTER'S RECENT STATEMENTS ON MIDEAST CRITICIZED

JN3018417Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Apr 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The joint statement issued in Amman and Belgrade at the conclusion of His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Yugoslavia reiterates that a just and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis is possible only if it is based on Israel's withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the recognition of the rights of the Palestinians.

The present U.S. administration has exerted great efforts to establish a just peace in the region on the basis referred to in the Jordan-Yugoslav joint statement, and the Arabs have put their trust in President Jimmy Carter. Nevertheless, the United States has shown its failure to persuade Israel to change its attitude based on imposing surrender through military power. Carter admitted this inability yesterday when he pointed out in an interview with the London SUNDAY TIMES that a lasting settlement in the Middle East will have to depend on Begin's proposition of self-rule for the West Bank which is occupied by Israel. This clear and definite statement is clearly biased toward the Israeli expansionist policy and a recognition of the legitimacy of Israel's occupation of Palestinian land.

Despite all this, we hope that these attitudes and the statements of the U.S. administration--during Dayan's visit and just before Begin's visit to the United States--are just an intelligent maneuver to reassure the Jewish negotiators. President Carter is reported to have gone back on his decision on the jet fighters deal, and this is contrary to our hopes. [sentence as heard]

CABINET BRIEFED ON HUSAYN'S VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA, ITALY

JN3019355Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran today briefed the cabinet on the results of his majesty's visits to Yugoslavia, the Vatican and Italy. During the visits, the king held extensive talks with Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito, His Holiness Pope Paul VI and Italian President Giovanni Leone.

The prime minister pointed out that his majesty's talks with President Tito dealt with the international situation in general, as well as with the most important international issues such as disarmament, North-South relations and the existing disputes among some nonalined states. The talks also dealt with the Middle East problem in light of the attitudes of the parties concerned with the conflict and of those concerned with finding a just and peaceful settlement to the Middle East crisis.

The prime minister said that the results of the talks were very useful and reflected the identical viewpoints of Jordan and Yugoslavia on the dimensions of the Middle East problem and on its threat to world peace as a result of the expansionist tendency which governs Israel's foreign policy.

The prime minister said that the talks dealt with the issue of cooperation between Jordan and Yugoslavia in the field of supporting the nonalined movement, strengthening its principles and developing it in the service of the development and growth of the nonalined states so as to avoid the dangers of the East-West struggle. The prime minister explained that the talks dealing with relations between the two countries were successful and resulted in an agreement on the need to establish balanced relations between Jordan and Yugoslavia, especially in the field of trade relations.

AWDAH, SOVIET AMBASSADOR DISCUSS BILATERAL RELATIONS

JN2917l1Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1535 GMT 29 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 29 April--Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah today discussed with Aleksey Voronin, Soviet ambassador in Amman, the developing good relations between the two countries in the cultural and information fields--relations to which the Information Ministry has contributed within the framework of consolidating the ties of friendship between the two countries. Abu 'Awdah praised the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries as well as Ambassador Voronin's role in developing these relations.

MINISTER OF STATE RETURNS FROM DAKAR CONFERENCE

JN302135Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 30 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Amman this afternoon from Dakar after leading the Jordanian delegation to the Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference.

Ibrahim stated that the Jordanian delegation submitted to the conference a detailed memorandum on the situation of the holy places in the occupied Arab territories, and on the continued Israeli measures to Judaize the Arab city of Jerusalem. He added that the Jordanian delegation explained the dimensions of the latest Jordanian move aimed at restoring Arab solidarity and convening an Arab summit conference which would lay down a well-studied plan for joint Arab action. He also stated that an atmosphere of fraternal and Islamic solidarity prevailed at the conference. The conference also provided the occasion to exchange views among delegations of the participating countries on international and bilateral issues. Ibrahim stated that he had met with the Senegalese prime minister, and that they comprehensively reviewed relations between Jordan and Senegal, and agreed to develop these relations.

JORDANIAN-FRENCH TELEVISION PROTOCOL SIGNED IN AMMAN

JN301255Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] A Jordanian-French protocol on cooperation in the field of television was signed at the Information Ministry this morning. According to the protocol, Jordanian television will devote one hour a day on the foreign channel 6 for a program in the French language, including a news bulletin.

The protocol was signed on the Jordanian side by Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, and on the French side by the French ambassador in Amman.

PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT

NC281718Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss has been asked to form the new government. The general directorate of the president's office has issued the following statement:

As a result of the parliamentary consultations which His Excellency President of the Republic Ilyas Sarkis has been holding to lay the groundwork for the formation of a new cabinet, His Excellency has asked His Excellency Dr Salim al-Huss to form the government. The prime minister-designate will begin his consultations tomorrow morning.

The national news agency has learned that the prime minister-designate will begin to call on the former prime ministers this evening.

His Excellency President of the Republic Ilyas Sarkis received Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss at 1830 today following the consultations which were held at the palace this morning. During these consultations, matters related to the formation of the new government were reviewed.

Al-Huss Makes Statement

NC281808Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss will soon begin the traditional visits to the former prime ministers following his appointment this evening as prime minister-designate.

Prime Minister al-Huss arrived at the Republican Palace in B'abda at 1830 today. He was received by President of the Republic Ilyas Sarkis. Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Kamil al-As'ad attended. President Sarkis then asked Prime Minister Dr al-Huss to form the new government.

Commenting on being appointed to form the new government, Prime Minister al-Huss made the following statement: [begin recording]

I thank his excellency the president for the confidence which he has again placed in me by asking me to form the government again. I take this opportunity to call on all the Lebanese to rally around the president and the government during this critical, fateful phase of Lebanon's history. We are prepared to extend our hand to all without exception so that we will cooperate in the work to enable this country to reverse its decline.

The task is difficult and the responsibilities enormous. However, with God's help, we will be able to overcome all difficulties and surmount all obstacles. In so doing, we will be armed with our strong faith, sincere determination and unity of ranks. We implore God to grant us success in discharging our mission with the support of all the Lebanese people, including all their factions and leaders. Thank you. [end recording]

Prime Minister al-Huss was asked: Will you begin the consultations tonight?

He said: I will make some visits to the former prime ministers, and I will begin to hold parliamentary consultations tomorrow morning.

Dr al-Huss was asked about the composition of the government. He said: The consultations which I will hold with the parliamentary blocs will determine this matter.

Asked another question about the composition of the government, he said: I will leave this matter until I know the outcome of the consultations.

Prime Minister al-Huss then went to visit his eminence the mufti. He will also visit the former prime ministers. The consultations will be held tomorrow and on Sunday if necessary.

Speaker al-As'ad Comments

NC281737Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The meeting held this morning at the palace was attended by His Excellency Kamil al-As'ad, the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies.

Speaker al-As'ad left the palace at 1845. He told newsmen: The only thing I can tell you is that Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has been summoned to the palace and officially asked to form the government. Dr al-Huss will begin his consultations tomorrow.

Speaker al-As'ad was asked: What do you wish him on this occasion?

He replied: We wish him success, because a successful formation of the government is a success for you and for the homeland.

Speaker al-As'ad was asked: Do you believe that the formation of the cabinet will be easy? He answered: I believe that this is not an insurmountable problem.

He was asked whether the prime minister had been asked to adhere to the document which was endorsed by the Chamber of Deputies as a working program. Speaker al-As'ad said: We have worked out this document, and we have sent it to the government. After the cabinet is formed, we will consider this document. The prime minister cannot settle this matter until the government is formed, because the ministers currently in office cannot settle it.

PRESIDENT SARKIS RECEIVES SOVIET AMBASSADOR SOLDATOV

NC291507Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 29 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Soviet Ambassador in Beirut Aleksandr Soldatov has notified the president of the republic and the Leabnese Foreign Ministry of his country's stand on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 and the financing of the UN emergency forces.

Soldatov met at 1300 today with President Ilyas Sarkis to convey to him the views of the Soviet Government, which calls for immediate Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon and for Israeli financing of the UN forces, based on the principle that the aggressor must bear the expenses.

Ambassador Soldatov met earlier today with the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, Shaykh Najib ad-Dahdah, to discuss the situation in southern Lebanon and the UN Security Council resolution.

PHALANGIST LEADER AL-JUMAYYIL LEAVES FOR DAMASCUS

JN0107457 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 1 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 1 May--Pierre al-Jumayyil, leader of the rightist Phalangist Party, left for Damascus this morning at the head of a delegation of his party to pay a brief visit to the Syrian capital in response to an invitation from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Jumayyil will meet with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and President al-Asad for talks on further developing cooperation with regard to the current situation in Lebanon. Phalangist Party sources say that Al-Jumayyil is carrying a comprehensive file on relations between the rightist front and the Syrian regime.

UN, LEBANESE FORCES PREPARE FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

NC281630Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Trucks driven by French troops this morning transported men of the Senegalese commando force through the Al-'Abbasiyah barricade on a reconnoitering mission of the areas in which the Senegalese commando force is scheduled to be stationed as soon as the Israeli army begins its withdrawal next Sunday.

Senegalese Captain (Galo) said that the Senegalese force, which arrived in Tyre yesterday, numbers 170 men. The remaining members of this detachment will begin arriving in Lebanon at the end of this week.

He said that this force will be stationed at the points assigned to it in the Al-'Abbasiyah-(Al-Mallufiyah)-(Tirat) (Al-Khall) area.

Men of the French forces serving with the UNIFIL have taken up positions at the Zuwayyah state high school to oversee the withdrawal operations. Furthermore, arrivals [from the south have stated that the Israeli forces have actually begun to group and withdraw from some positions close to the Al-Bazuriyah axis and have set up new positions and reinforced positions in (Baytahun) village.

Security Forces Take Positions

NC291745Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 29 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] Arrivals from the south said today that elements of the Lebanese internal security forces have crossed an Israeli barrier near the entrance to the town of (Al-Qulaylah) in preparation for taking up their positions with the UN emergency forces in places from which Israel will withdraw tomorrow.

Israeli vehicles and tracked vehicles were seen gathering in preparation for their withdrawal.

Israeli Withdrawal Begins

NC201544Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The Israeli army today began implementing phase three of its withdrawl from some areas of the south which the Israeli army occupied on 17 March. The area expected to be included in withdrawal phase three totals 60 percent of occupied Lebanese territory.

The withdrawal operation began at 1100 from the Al-'Abbasiyah barricade. Detachments of the Senegalese and French forces took over the points and fortifications where the Israelis were stationed.

General Erskine, the commander of the UN forces operating in southern Lebanon, who oversaw the beginning of the withdrawal operation, said: Beginning today and until 5 May, the operation will cover all the centers and points in the villages which Israel occupied in the area ranging from 5 to 10 km from the border strip.

General Erskine added: The withdrawal from the remaining area will be subject to discussions at the highest levels.

He said: The area from which Israel will withdraw this week will be handed over to the Senegalese and French forces. He affirmed that no obstacles have yet arisen to the withdrawal operation and stationing.

ROCKETS FIRED AT 'AYN AR-RUMMANAH 29 APRIL

JN291115Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1042 GMT 29 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 29 April--Four rockets were fired at dawn today at the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah area in eastern Beirut, which witnessed fierce clashes at the beginning of April. Eyewitnesses believe that the rockets, which caused material damage, were fired from the Al-Busaynat fortress near the area of Tall az-Za'tar in the eastern sector of Beirut where the deterrent forces have taken up positions.

An explosive charge went off this morning in a car near the Khaldah area south of Beirut on the highway leading to Sidon. The explosion killed three persons and wounded a few others.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL KILLED IN BEIRUT

NC282011Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Apr 78 NC

[Text] At 2030 today, unidentified persons opened fire on Ambassador Hasib al-'Abdallah, director of economic affairs in the Foreign Ministry, as he was standing in the garage of the building in which he resides in Corniche al-Mazra'ah quarter near Al-Hilu barracks. He was hit by several bullets which killed him instantly.

Ambassador al-'Abdallah was a former Lebanese ambassador to the UAE and Kuwait.

INFORMATION MINISTER: SYRIA WILL NOT ATTEND ARAB SUMMIT

JN290750Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0730 GMT 29 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 29 April--The Syrian information minister, His Excellency Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, has said that the kingdom's constant stand on Arab issues and events in the Middle East is magnificent and worthy of praise and appreciation. In a statement in today's issue of AL-JAZIRAH, the Syrian information minister said that officials in the kingdom realize the dimensions of the treacherous Zionist design for expansion. He praised relations between the kingdom and Syria.

Replying to a question on Syria's position on an Arab summit conference to restore Arab solidarity, Iskandar said that Syria would not attend any summit conference as long as Israeli-Egyptian negotiations continue.

Interviewed by Paris Paper

JN291927Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1735 GMT 29 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 29 April--Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad has declared that no Arab summit conference boycotted by the Syrian Arab Republic will succeed, and consequently, any invitation to hold an Arab summit conference at present is out of the question. This is contained in an interview Ahmad granted to the newspaper AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA DUWALI, published in Arabic in Paris.

Asked about the efforts currently taking place to restore Arab solidarity, Ahmad said: Syria has always been the forerunner in calling for Arab solidarity and has always been interested in pooling Arab resources and working constantly to develop means for achieving this solidarity so as to reach the best formula. The Arab solidarity which Syria sought and is still seeking with all its capabilities is a solidarity which will unify the resources of the Arab nation and employ them in our pan-Arab battle against the Zionist enemy. However, what is currently being presented by certain Arab sides are the proper words intended to lead to false results. While what they are saying is true in tone, the actual aim is to cover up what As-Sadat has done and to legitimize the crime he has committed against the Arab nation. It is absolutely unacceptable to say that the call to meet with the Zionist enemy is a unified Arab stand.

Ahmad affirmed that Arab solidarity must stand against the Zionist enemy and that any attempt to prompt the Arabs to approve the crime As-Sadat has committed against the Arab people does not represent Arab solidarity.

Ahmad asserted that Syria refuses to attend any conference attended by President as-Sadat as long as As-Sadat's road to Tel Aviv is open. He said: Any Arab conference called to deal with the situation in the area cannot be successful if Syria does not attend.

Asked what Syria's position will be if President as-Sadat declares that his initiative has failed, Ahmad said: The unity between Egypt and Syria is one thing, and that between Syria and As-Sadat is another. Syrian-Egyptian unity is a strategic goal which we seek to achieve with the Arab Egypt which realizes its patriotic and pan-Arab responsibilities and walks on the path leading to the good of the Arabs and their progress. However, rapprochement with As-Sadat, who declares that his capitulationist initiative will continue forever, is not in the interest of the Arab cause or Arab Egypt because while As-Sadat continues this line, he is harming Egypt and its people.

The information minister said that the entire Arab situation is unsatisfactory at present. The situation needs a jolt to restore its health. It is clear that no future can be achieved for the Arabs without their solidarity against the Zionist enemy.

The minister further said that undoubtedly the call by certain people who deviated from the Arab nation's will and favored a meeting with the Zionist enemy [words indistinct], and a firm and unified Arab stand will be achieved to repulse this onrush and restore things to normal. Such a situation will be fraught with many dangers for those who are confronting the Zionist onslaught and the capitulationist call. Also those who imagine that they are safe from these dangers must realize that they will pay the price of the success of the Zionist plan.

Speaking on the political efforts being made to find a settlement to the Middle East problem, the information minister said: Syrian policy in this regard is principled, firm and unchanging. When Syria, under the leadership of President al-Asad, declares its views on an issue, it means what it says. We want a political settlement to the Middle East problem that will insure the following:

1. An overall solution based on Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory;

2. Insuring the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to return to their homeland, to determine their future and to establish their independent national state; and

3. An end to the state of war.

The minister also said that Syria is still concerned about achieving such a settlement. Naturally, we do not expect a peaceful settlement to be achieved through subjective means. We are exerting efforts to create the objective conditions needed to make such a settlement possible. He pointed out that the first of these objective conditions is to build a strong Arab force and to restore the balance of forces which has been disrupted in the area as a result of As-Sadat's visit to Israel and the resulting grave consequences which favor the Zionist enemy. [words indistinct] in these conditions to adhere to the Arab rights because any concessions made by Arabs will be answered by further Israeli intransigence. Experience has proved this.

The minister said: Under the present circumstances, the issues are blurred. We are aware of the dangers of the current state of affairs in the Arab homeland and are certain of the U.S.-Zionist plot in the region. We must right what is wrong in the Arab situation and restore self-confidence to the Arab nation. We must insure that there is enough strength in ourselves to revive international moves toward a comprehensive solution. Unless this strength is achieved, I do not think that any international effort to hold any meeting, conference, dialog or anything else can be successful. The minister expressed satisfaction with the results reached by the first conference of the information ministers of the national front of steadfastness and confrontation, and said that the conference established realistic and essential formulas which can be implemented and that the conference was completely successful.

The minister described the relations between Syria and Jordan as good and satisfactory, and said they should continue to develop. He said that contacts between Damascus and Amman are continuing. The minister said: Whether or not Jordan's views are identical with ours, there is a common desire for our positions to be based on clarity and understanding. The Jordanian brothers did well when they were not deceived by As-Sadat's illusions and when they refused to give him the backing [taghtiyah] he and Israel needed.

The minister praised Syrian-Palestinian relations, and said that they are very good and that there is a common desire to continue to develop these relations. The minister also praised the Algerian position and said: We appreciate the stand of Algerian President Houari Boumediene who showed understanding for the importance of achieving the needs of a strategic balance between Syria and the Zionist enemy. President Boumediene, the minister added, is very serious and wants to fulfill the commitments approved at the summits of steadfastness and confrontation in Tripoli and Algiers.

In reply to a question on U.S. peace efforts and achievements, particularly after the recent developments in southern Lebanon and the failure of the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations, the minister said: from news reports and from the information media, I see that the U.S. efforts are deeply immersed in the Israeli-As-Sadat game without any serious approach to a comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis. The current contacts between As-Sadat and Israel are neither peaceful nor do they serve peace. Because these contacts concern a separate peace between Israel and Egypt, they steer the region away from peace and (?are) factors creating complexity and instability. Any international efforts in the Middle East which are not aimed at a comprehensive solution based on complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and on the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people--including their right to return, to self-determination and to establish their independent national state--are not worthy of being called efforts toward peace.

The minister of information pointed out that the reported U.S.-Israeli differences are exaggerated, and said: We think that the United States can play an effective role in the interest of peace in the Middle East and that it should play such a role in view of its international responsibilities. However, the United States has not played such a role so far. In addition, it is supplying Israel with huge shipments of modern weapons as well as with continued material and political support. All talk about U.S. pressure--pressure on Israel which does not include halting the supply of weapons of death and destruction to Israel--will be more a joke than anything else.

The information minister talked about Syrian-U.S. relations and said: Our view of the present U.S. stand, which supports the deception being undertaken in the area by As-Sadat and Israel, is not reassuring despite our hope that U.S. policy will again begin to work seriously to implement what President Carter has announced concerning his commitment to a comprehensive settlement and to a just and lasting peace in the region. U.S. policy should not work to encourage the disruption of Arab ranks. Regarding our relations with the United States in other areas, they could unquestionably be better and develop much faster.

The minister of information praised the Soviet Union's role in support of Arab rights and said: We have considered and still consider the recent visit of President Hafiz al-Asad to the Soviet Union and his talks with the Soviet leaders as being successful and fruitful. The Soviet Union firmly supports a comprehensive solution as well as a just and lasting settlement in the region, and strongly condemns unilateral solutions and the attempts being made to split Arab ranks. In fact, the Soviet Union supports Syria in various political and military spheres.

The information minister reaffirmed that the Syrian troops working within the Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon are under the command of the Lebanese authorities and act in Lebanon on their orders to carry out the task of maintaining security and preparing the conditions which will lead Lebanon back to its former stability and prosperity.

The minister added: When it becomes possible to do without these troops, our forces will return to Syria.

In reply to a question on the news reports which said that one of the goals of President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to India was to conclude an agreement with the Indian Government on establishing nuclear cooperation between India and Syria, the minister of information said: In every step he takes on the Arab or international levels, President Hafiz al-Asad considers the goal of liberating the occupied territories. Any means which helps to achieve this aim is undertaken by President al-Asad firmly and bravely. His visit to India will undoubtedly help promote bilateral relations and achieve a better understanding of what is going on in the Middle East.

COMMENTARY ASSAILS CARTER STATEMENTS ON MIDEAST

JN302025Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 30 Apr 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The forces of the imperialist-Zionist plot are now intensifying their activities with the aim of implementing the terms of this plot. This plot is aimed against the Arab struggle and at imposing imperialist-Zionist hegemony on the Arab region. The U.S. capital is now the scene of new meetings between Zionist officials on the one hand and U.S. administrations officials on the other, in order to coordinate their current moves.

Yesterday, Carter reiterated that he will not accept the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. He said that the settlement sought by the United States stems from a basic principle, namely, Begin's proposed self-administration [al-'idarah adh-dhatiyah] in the occupied West Bank. This U.S. attitude is a replica of the Zionist attitude toward the Palestinian question. The U.S. views are identical with the Zionist views, especially on the withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, the rights of the Palestinian Arab people and their right to establish their independent state. This attitude shows that the differences in views which crop up every now and then between Israel and the United States are just pure nonsense for the consumption of those who dream about the support of the United Sates and who look upon it as merely a mediator.

Despite this similarity between the U.S. and Zionist attitude and despite the clear aims of the U.S.-Israeli conspiracy, the Egyptian ruler still insists on his line of capitulation and on implementing his plots against the Arab nation and its legitimate rights. Despite all this similarity, those who are calling for Arab solidarity are still doing so, ignoring all the stands taken by As-Sadat since his ill-fated visit, his recognition of the Zionist entity, his flouting of the will of the Arab nation and his challenge to its rights. These calls cannot have any purpose except an attempt to give an Arab cover [presumably support] for As-Sadat and for the plot in which he is taking part, and to help him and his accomplices achieve their aims, namely, to put our nation under the hegemony and influence of the imperialists and Zionists.

PAPER REBUTS SAUNDERS' CONGRESSIONAL STATEMENT

JN290650Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Apr 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Today's local papers show an interest in the subject of Arab solidarity because of its great importance to the efforts to confront the Zionist enemy in all fields.

The papers also devote their main comments to condemning the defeatist policy of capitulation currently pursued by the Egyptian regime under Anwar as-Sadat--a policy which has simultaneously stabbed Arab solidarity in the heart and given the Zionist enemy many of the things of which he once dreamed.

In a comment entitled "No, Mr Saunders," the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH says: There are so many American trial balloons now that they have become a part of U.S. strategy in the area. These balloons are released under certain circumstances and directions to monitor local conditions and reactions. In other words, the United States tries to ascertain facts by spreading doubts.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: U.S. experts in highly responsible posts are in charge of setting off these firecrackers and monitoring their reverberations to detect political, psychological and, perhaps, even military conditions in the area. These men in the Carter administration are led by Harold Saunders, the new assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs. Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last Tuesday, Saunders said, verbatim: Syria's dispute with Egypt on the peace process is a tactical one.

ATH-THAWRAH continues: Saunders knows better than anyone else that what he said was incorrect. But he purposely concealed the truth as part of the deceptive psychological warfare which the United States is waging as part of a policy of trickery and camouflage which characterizes American moves in the area.

The paper says: If by setting off his firecracker and monitoring its echo, Saunders hopes to get the answer, then we would like to assure him that Syria's dispute with Egypt is over strategy, for this dispute affects the Arab struggle as well as the present and future of the Arabs.

ATH-THAWRAH concludes: Syria will not be satisfied merely to expose As-Sadat's action in falling into the lap of the United States, but will fight this capitulationist line with all the military, political and economic means within its power.

SUDANESE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO SYRIA POSTPONED

NC291108Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1038 GMT 29 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Damascus, 29 April--The MENA correspondent in Damascus has learned from diplomatic sources in the Syrian capital that Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri will visit Syria 4-6 May, and will not arrive today as reported earlier.

The Sudanese president is visiting a number of Arab capitals in implementation of the resolutions of the Arab Solidarity Committee which met in Khartoum last week in an attempt to convene an Arab summit conference.

DAMASCUS RADIO REPORTS IRAQI EMPLOYEES DISCHARGED

JN2921259 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad--As part of the terroristic measures which the Iraqi regime is carrying out against the citizens in fraternal Iraq, the Baghdad rulers have recently discharged well over 1,000 diplomatic and administrative employees; others have been pensioned off.

REUTER reports that those affected include dozens of under secretaries, directors general, 41 ambassadors and 37 journalists working for the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH. The Baghdad rulers also discharged many other employees and reduced the salaries of many others.

LEBANESE FRONT LEADER SHATILA RECEIVED BY AL-ASAD

JN281540Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Apr 78 JN

[Text] At 1245 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Kamal Shatila, secretary general of the front of the national parties and forces in Lebanon. The discussion dealt with the situation in Lebanon, particularly in southern Lebanon and the latest developments there.

Makes Statement to SANA

JN282141Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Kamal Shatila, secretary general of the nationalist and patriotic front in Lebanon and president of the federation of the working people's forces, made the following statement to the SANA correspondent: I was happy to meet with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, who stands in the forefront of the steadfast Arabs in defense of the national rights and goals of the Arab nation.

Shatila added: The rights of the nation will not be wasted as long as its men and its vanguard uphold the banner of liberation and are determined to achieve its legitimate goals. The steadfastness of Arab Syria, within the framework of the independent, pan-Arab course under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, is the proper way to build intrinsic Arab power capable of meeting the challenge. The Syrian domestic front is impregnable and cannot be harmed by the treacherous Zionist and foreign hands; the impregnability of the Syrian Arab people has become part of their experience and long heritage of struggle.

Shatilla continued: I discussed with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad the current Arab developments, and Lebanon, naturally. We briefed the president on behalf of the Patriotic Front on our views of the general situation in Lebanon and how to cope with the Zionist aggression on southern Lebanon.

Shatilla added: As the October war of liberation has confirmed, Syria regards the Palestinian Arab cause as the crux of the pan-Arab commitment and the basic criterion in the Arab struggle movement.

Shatilla said that the Lebanese nationalist and patriotic front greatly appreciates the Syrian Arab initiative in Lebanon. He said: We have supported and will always support every positive action by the Lebanese state to build a new Lebanon on the basis of freedom, justice and equality.

Shatilla concluded: The enormity of the Zionist and imperialist challenges to our nation cannot be belittled. However, the unity of the Arab stand, which is based on rejecting the Zionist plans, intensifying efforts and mobilizing resources, is capable of winning the rights and regaining the usurped lands.

SPEECH RALLY TO BE HELD IN DAMASCUS 1 MAY

JN291531Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 29 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 29 April--Under the patronage of comrade leader Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the republic, the Confederation of Trade Unions will hold a big speech rally on the occasion of 1 May, international Labor Day. The rally will be held at 1030 on Monday at the headquarters of the Confederation of Trade Unions.

The rally will be attended by the comrade members of the party's national and regional commands; members of the national progressive front; members of the diplomatic corps in Damascus; ministers; managers of firms and factories; and heads of popular organizations.

IDF COMPLETES 3D STAGE OF S. LEBANON WITHDRAWAL

TA301650Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Apr 78 TA

[Text] At this moment the IDF in southern Lebanon is completing another stage of the withdrawal from the region. Earlier, our military correspondent reported that the forces are already deployed along the new line from Ra's (Baydah) on the seashore to the IDF post south of Tibnin on the central front and to the region of the village of At-Tayyibah to the east. This line gives the IDF control of a 10-km-deep strip.

The territory evacuated by the IDF is being manned today by UN soldiers from France and Senegal. Later, soldiers from Iran and Sweden will take up positions there.

BEGIN HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

NC300650Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Apr 78 NC

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin is leaving this morning on a visit to the United States. At this moment he is scheduled to hold a press conference at Ben-Gurion Airport. Our political correspondent Shalom Qital reports:

The prime minister arrived at Ben-Gurion Airport terminal a few seconds ago. He is now talking to some of the cabinet ministers, including acting Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin. Many ministers, Knesset members, and members of the diplomatic corps have come to bid the prime minister farewell. The prime minister is in a good mood. He is smiling. He is now greeting the stenographer, and the press conference is starting.

[Head of Government Press Office Hefez] The prime minister will first speak in Hebrew and then in English. Mr Prime Minister:

I am leaving for the United States in order to take part with the Jewish communities, and, as I believe, with the great majority of the American people, in the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel. I will visit New York, Los Angeles and Chicago--the cities where big rallies will be held on the occasion of this special event, which is special not just in the history of our nation.

The U.S. President has invited guests tomorrow for the occasion of the renewal of the independence of Israel and 30th anniversary of our victory. He invited me to join him in welcoming the guests.

I will have talks with Secretary of State Vance in Washington. I will meet with our foreign minister this evening to receive from him a full report on his talks with the secretary of state. Thank you very much. Now for the questions.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, have you deduced from the initial report you received from Mr Dayan that progress, a breakthrough, or at least some progress has taken place in the political negotiations in the area?

[Answer] I think it is possible to say, without using any terms, that very serious talks took place and no conclusions have been reached. As I said earlier, I will receive a full report from the foreign minister in New York.

[Question] The press reports this morning that the foreign minister has proposed abandoning the discussion on the declaration of principles and moving to a discussion with Egypt on the future of Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip. Do you think such a proposal is likely to help the peace negotiations?

[Answer] It is true that the foreign minister has proposed discussing the substantive issues and not only the declaration of principles. As I said earlier, the cabinet must discuss all these things. I will receive a full report from Mr Dayan.

[Question] What are we doing to convince the Egyptians to freeze the discussion on the declaration of principles at this stage and to discuss the concrete issues?

[Answer] Well, we have not yet approached the Egyptians with any proposals. As is known, the Egyptians have frozen the discussion on the declaration of principles because they insist on two demands that are unacceptable to Israel. These are total withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines and what they call self-determination for the Arabs residing in Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip, which simply means the establishment of a Palestinian state. They are opposed to the resumption of the talks within the framework of the Political and Military Committees. In the meantime, therefore, no new approach to Egypt has been made.

[Question] In a television interview on Friday the foreign minister said that there are a number of questions he will ask you to answer for the Americans, and that he was not prepared to give the answers to these questions. Are you taking with you answers to some questions posed by the U.S. administration?

[Answer] All this will be clarified after my meeting with the foreign minister.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, as far as Israel is concerned have new conditions been created since your last visit to the United States, over a month ago, that will be discussed during your current visit and that are likely to promote the peace negotiations?

[Answer] We can only find this out when I get there.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, President Carter said in an interview published yesterday that your peace plan is the basis for a settlement in the Middle East. Before his departure from Ben-Gurion Airport, the foreign minister suggested that the change the Americans want introduced in this plan is to limit it to a specific period. Is this approach of limiting the plan to a specific period acceptable to us?

[Answer] Our plan clearly states that after 5 years the plan will be the subject of renewed discussion. Therefore, there is nothing new in what was announced. I read or, more precisely, heard this morning the U.S. President's statements in the SUNDAY TIMES. We welcome the fact that he has reiterated that he has not supported and does not support the establishment of a Palestinian state. If Israel's peace plan should serve as the basis for a Middle East settlement, we can express our satisfaction. Of course, this is a question of examining the details, the conditions and the plan closely.

[Question] Lately the negotiations have been conducted through the United States. Do you expect that following the recent meetings in Washington and your present visit, direct contacts with the Egyptians will be resumed?

[Answer] The direct contact with the Egyptians has not been broken. I only said that we have no new proposals for Egypt. It is possible that the United States will make some move and the direct contact with Egypt will be renewed. We have never broken this contact.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, [words indistinct] the U.S. administration to break down the package deal and submit separate proposals to Congress.

[Answer] There is separation at this moment--that is, the proposals for each of the three states will be discussed separately. We welcome this development. We have said from the beginning that there is no justification or point in linking the three together--a commitment to Israel to supply it with aircraft and also supplying modern aircraft to Saudi Arabia and Egypt. If this separation is final, we will be pleased. This is still unclear. What I should point out is that the congressional committees will begin discussing each proposal on its own merits in accordance with the decision of the U.S. administration.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, recently some people have suggested that the timing of your trip now is not good for Israel. Do you agree with this?

[Answer] The timing is connected with the celebration of our independence. This visit was decided several months ago. I think that one must say something positive as on this occasion the U.S. president has invited many guests to the White House and has invited me to be present at this reception. It is self-evident that during this visit I will meet with the U.S. President at his kind invitation and with other U.S. administration officials. Therefore, I think that the timing is good, just as it should be. I will take part in the celebrations with the Jewish communities in the big cities. I was told there will be thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands of Jews. Much importance is attached to this.

[Qital] The Hebrew part of the press conference ends at this point. The prime minister is now repeating the same things in English. I return you to the studio.

BEGIN DISCUSSES IDF WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON

NC3012417 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 30 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Begin left Israel early this morning for a week-long trip to the United States. At Ben-Gurion Airport Begin talked briefly to reporters. Correspondent Lavi sums up: [begin recording]

The prime minister was also asked if Israel has committed itself to a final withdrawal date for its troops in southern Lebanon.

[Begin] I think it's a matter for deliberations between the military experts, and talks will go on between our chief of staff and General Siilasvuo. As you know, we had in the beginning decided not to stay for good in Lebanon but when the arrangements are made for security so that the PLO men do not return to the bases which they had to leave during the operation of the Israeli army, then there will be a withdrawal of the Israeli forces beyond the border back to Israel. And that will take time and talks about the proper arrangements for the UN forces to take over and to make sure that those men who are bent on attacking Israel and its citizens will not be back in southern Lebanon. [end recording]

DAYAN DISCUSSES U.S. TALKS WITH CORRESPONDENT

TA282040Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1820 GMT 28 Apr 78 TA

[Interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Dayan by Dan Shilon, Jerusalem domestic television correspondent in New York, in his hotel in New York on 28 April]

[Text] According to accounts published in the U.S. press today, in his talks Foreign Minister Dayan renewed to a certain extent the understanding between Israel and the United States. At the conclusion of their talks yesterday Mr Dayan and Mr Vance avoided using optimistic language. However, Mr Dayan, in an interview with the Friday Television Newsreel explains that there will be room for either optimism or pessimism only when the Egyptian reaction is learned. The foreign minister arrived in New York to await the arrival of the prime minister. Mr Dayan talked with our New York correspondent, Dan Shilon, a short while ago. [begin videotape]

[Question] Yesterday when you concluded the talks at the State Department and met with journalists, you and the U.S. Secretary of State were both careful not to express optimism about the next move. Why is this?

[Answer] This is so since, despite the fact that the exchanges of views between us expressed the mutual and dynamic desire to continue the talks, we still have another partner--the Egyptians. It is not only the Egyptians now, by the way. To express optimism about the continuation of the talks means not only to be sure that the moves we suggested are acceptable to the United States and Israel but that they are also acceptable to the other party. How can we express optimism before Egypt is consulted?

[Question] Are these moves indeed acceptable to the United States?

[Answer] In principle, I think they are. However, I am repeating and stressing the above point: we are not conducting peace negotiations with the United States. Therefore, when you ask whether the moves are acceptable to the United States, you should ask rather whether the United States thinks that these moves will be acceptable to Egypt. This is true throughout. With regard to the differences of opinion, it is occasionally said that we have disagreements with the United States but these reflect the position of the third party--when the Americans think it is impossible to bridge the gap dividing the two parties--rather than the position of the United States alone. From this point of view, I think that the United States, at the end of the 2 days of talks, is wholeheartedly prepared to follow these moves. However, it will not commit itself and will not say that they are acceptable before it makes sure that they indeed will yield results and that the other party will accept them.

[Question] The details of yesterday's talks are misty. Could you dissipate this mist a little and tell us what you dealt with in the last 2 days?

[Answer] The mist is not accidental. It did not come out of the blue. It is not mist at all. We simply did not want to say. What we did not want to say yesterday I do not want to say today. I can only say, in principle, that we have not dealt with the formulation of the declaration of principles and obviously not with the different interpretations of Resolution 242. The issue came up at several points in the talks but we did not deal with it. What did we deal with then? We assumed that even if there were an agreement regarding the declaration of principles, we would have to enter substantive negotiations later about the peace settlement.

For example, with Egypt we will have to negotiate the issues of the demilitarized zone, the Jewish settlements, the control of Sharm ash-Shaykh and so on. Also, the entire Palestinian complex and perhaps also the issue of the refugees in Lebanon--a solution to the problem of the refugees. As long as there is no solution to that, the conflict is not settled. Well then, the approach was whether it is possible to reach negotiations about the issues themselves, what the framework for this is, and what foundations--determined in advance--will be able to serve as a basis for negotiations between us and the Egyptians. At this stage we are talking about Egypt and Israel.

[Question] Did you come with new ideas?

[Answer] I came to the United States with this idea and was very happy to find attentiveness and even more than this--encouragement on the part of the United States--for the attempt to find a way, not through papers or formulations, but rather to go one step further, to see the picture itself, to see the basis on which the peace agreement will be established. This was the idea. I also said this in Tel Aviv, in the press conference at Ben-Gurion Airport prior to my departure. I said that after all, the paperwork is not the key, the papers are only a framework. This was the idea. It was not with regard to the peace plan itself.

[Question] What are the disagreements remaining between Israel and the United States?

[Answer] At this stage we are talking about the procedures involved in the continuation of the talks. I emphasize again, perhaps for the third time in this short interview--that when we talk of disputed issues with the United States, this does not necessarily mean that the United States itself would not have agreed, for example, to the existence of Jewish settlements in the Sinai or in Judaea and Samaria, but that they rather view this as an obstacle to peace because they think that the other party has a negative opinion. At this stage the issue discussed was the issue of procedures, of process--how to advance the talks. I do not think there are differences of opinion. In his statement--I think that it indeed reflects the results of the talks--the secretary of state said that there were exchanges of views and of proposals aimed at reaching a resumption of the talks. He also said that each party should now examine them and comment. I assume that the remarks we will hear from the United States will reflect not only U.S. thoughts and ideas but also the Egyptian position on the matter.

[Question] Is it possible that the United States will submit at a certain stage its own plan for the solution of the Middle East conflict?

[Answer] Theoretically, in the present political reality, such a possibility exists. Nevertheless, in our talks this was not raised, not even once, by them. It is not only that no U.S. plan was advanced but there was no hint that they mean to present such a plan in the coming period. I think that we should take such a possibility into consideration.

[Question] Will the Israeli Government have to take any new decisions now, or find answers for new questions?

[Answer] It will have to give certain clarifications. In the course of the talks we were asked questions. Some of the questions we could answer on the spot but some we were not authorized to answer. We will go home, we will go to the prime minister and to the government and finally the government will make its position on these unanswered questions clear.

[Question] Which questions are talked of, generally speaking?

[Answer] I will report about that to the government.

[Question] Mr Dayan, have you found a tougher Egyptian position according to the report brought by Alfred Atherton from Egypt?

[Answer] The report is tough. I would not say that there is a toughening. In other words, Egypt's position is tough. I do not want to say toughening since this is, in fact, the same position that the Egyptian president stated in his speech at the Knesset in Jerusalem. Atherton did not bring us tidings to the effect that the Egyptian president is giving up one of these elements when the declaration of principles is talked of. I emphasize, when the declaration of principles is in question.

[Question] From the point of view of the United States, is the Aswan formula of Carter and As-Sadat regarding the Palestinians still on the agenda unchanged?

[Answer] I think so. However, I repeat, for the fourth time, the United States says: This is the formula that the U.S. President stated in Aswan, therefore, it is acceptable to us, to the United States. We cannot say, in Egypt's name, that Egypt will accept it and obviously not that the Palestinian Arabs or the Syrians will accept it. Therefore, if As-Sadat, or the Egyptian representatives say that this is not enough for them, that they want--as Mr Atherton said--a declaration that speaks about the right of the Palestinian Arabs for self-determination and not only to participate in the determination of their future, then the U.S. position will not carry any special significance since it came in order to attain Arab agreement to this position and there is no such agreement.

[Question] Is there a chance of continuing the direct contact held lately by the defense minister with Egypt, or, at least, what did this contribute to the dissolution of the stalemate, if anything?

[Answer] I do not know. I simply do not know and cannot say a single word about it.

[Question] It was said that the aircraft deal was not discussed in the talks. Why?

[Answer] Because I did not come for this. Moreover, it was exactly when I arrived here--and it was not me but Secretary of State Cyrus Vance who fixed the date--that the matter of the package deal was submitted to the Congress. Therefore, I was asked many questions about this. Nevertheless, I did not arrive here in order to win people over to our position. It was clear to me in advance that all I had to say on this matter would be said in Tel Aviv prior to my departure and only if I were asked about this. I was indeed asked about this at the airport and in answer I defined the position of the Israeli Government as I understand it. Here this issue was raised several times but I only repeated and clarified what I said in Tel Aviv. I did not exchange a single word on the matter, neither for the better nor for the worse, with the U.S. secretary of state. He did not ask me for my opinion on this matter. We meant only to deal with the peace issue and peace negotiations. In the meeting with the senators at breakfast, the only thing was that--due to the various interpretations current here regarding what I said--they wanted me to say again what I said and meant at Lod airport. In my talks with Vance this issue was not raised at all, while during this breakfast the issue lasted exactly half a minute.

[Question] What, in your assessment, is Mr Begin to expect here next week?

[Answer] I think that he will get a proper, decent and respectful reception by the U.S. President in addition to a reception on the occasion of the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the State of Israel. I think there will also be readiness on the part of the State Department for substantive talks if Mr Begin wants to get into such talks. They have the readiness to deal with this and also, the time needed for that will be put at the disposal of [words indistinct].

[Question] In other words, you assess that the atmosphere prevailing here during Mr Begin's last visit will not prevail again now?

[Answer] I do not know. I do not know what the atmosphere was. I do not get into this definition. I do not know what will or will not be repeated. I think that the U.S. position is that they are prepared to give him the proper and honorable reception--I do not know whether this will be so from the emotional point of view but certainly from the point of view of the relations between the United States and countries which are friendly to it. The same holds true for the continuation of the dialog about the peace negotiations. If Mr Begin wants to discuss this, then the State Department and also the President, I believe, will be ready to deal with this. I am also sure that the necessary time for this will be found.

[Question] Foreign Minister Dayan, thank you very much. [end videotape]

DAYAN'S VIEWS ON BEGIN-CARTER MEETING REPORTED

TA301435Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 Apr 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Mordekhay Barqa'i, U.S. correspondent]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will report to Prime Minister Begin in New York today about his positive meetings with his U.S. colleague, Cyrus Vance. In the light of this report Begin apparently will decide on the character of his meeting with President Carter tomorrow. It is possible that in the wake of the talk with Dayan the prime minister will hold telephone consultations with cabinet members in Jerusalem.

Begin and Carter will meet tomorrow in the framework of the reception for the prime minister at the White House on the occasion of Israel's 30th birthday.

In Dayan's opinion there are two possibilities:

A. Begin, as a prime minister, will adopt positions in the name of the Israeli Government, thus turning the meeting into the channels of political negotiations. He will also ask Dayan to stay during the meeting and possibly also afterward. In Dayan's opinion, Carter and Vance will view this favorably and will dedicate the needed time for it.

B. Since it is not only the Israelis but also the Americans who have to "reflect" about the ideas raised by Dayan in the talks, and since the prime minister's schedule is this time loaded with important Jewish events, Begin may focus his talk with the President (and with Vance) on a continuation of exchanges of assessments and views with the United States. Dayan gives a higher probability to this possibility.

In his meeting with Israeli journalists in Washington [27 April] on the eve of the holiday [last day of Passover] the foreign minister said that his visit was held at the invitation of the United States. As for the results of the visit, "if the Americans do not try to say things behind our back which are different from those they said to us, then they will present this visit as being positive." Dayan added that the talks were conducted on the basis of Israeli ideas not born at the negotiating table but "brought with us" and aimed at suggesting a way to make progress in the talks with the Egyptians "not only through the technique of fixing a meeting but by launching the negotiations on a constructive road."

Dayan, who was careful not to disclose, not even in a hint, the nature of the ideas which he brought with him and which were received with considerable interest by the Americans, seemed satisfied with his talks although both he and Vance avoided saying they were optimistic.

"Our relations with the Americans are not in a period of caresses, especially not now. There is no enthusiasm here about Israel's desire to lead the administration, through Israel's friends, to a decision (about the planes) which is unwanted by the administration."

"The United States does not have principles of its own, nor its own disagreements with us, not even on the issue of settlements. If the Arabs agreed, it would also agree. Since the Arabs do not agree, the Americans raise the claim that settlements are illegal."

"I do not reject direct negotiations but we need the mediation of the Americans. They are not only mediators, they also invest something in this business."

CABINET HEARS REPORT ON DAYAN TALKS IN U.S.

TA3016387 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 30 Apr 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Excerpts] Today the cabinet heard details of the foreign minister's talks in the United States. The details were reported by the acting prime minister answering ministers' questions in the framework of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs. The defense minister reported on security affairs, also in the framework of the same committee. Our political correspondent Yosi La'or reports: [begin recording]

Today the cabinet heard initial details of the foreign minister's talks in the United States. A full report will be made only after the prime minister and the foreign minister return. It is said today in Jerusalem that there is no room to express a pessimistic or optimistic view. The central issue is how the Egyptians will react to the Israeli proposal which is--and which the prime minister confirmed this morning--to freeze the deliberations concerning the declaration of principles and to resume direct negotiations concentrating on the practical nature of a settlement with respect to Sinai, Judaea, Samaria and Gaza.

Why should the Egyptians accept such a proposal? In the capital it is said that the answer is simple. If the Egyptians want to make progress they have to admit that it will be difficult to make such progress on the issue of the formulation of the declaration of principles and another path must be found. Over and above the Israeli proposal, which was defined by the foreign minister as being refreshing, recent remarks also point to there being certain grounds for optimism about the content of the settlement.

Yesterday, for the first time since As-Sadat's visit to the United States, President Carter said that Prime Minister Begin's autonomy plan is the basis for a possible settlement in the Middle East. In a reaction this morning, the prime minister did not reject the American view that the autonomy plan is a plan for a limited period of time.

Thus, it appears that the differences over the content of the settlement have been somewhat softened and so progress in the political negotiations can be pointed to. [end recording]

The cabinet has decided to establish a ministerial committee consisting of the deputy prime minister, the finance minister, the defense minister, the minister of justice and the minister of the interior to examine the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the military and police committees which examined the tragedy of the bus on the coastal road. The ministerial committee will also examine the spheres of responsibility for domestic security, the division of authority, coordination between the security branches and the allotment of resources.

NEW APPROACH TO TALKS WITH EGYPT OUTLINED

TA301555Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Apr 78 pp 1, 8 TA

[By Ron Ben-Yishay, Washington correspondent]

[Excerpts] A new Israeli approach to the conduct of negotiations with Egypt was at the center of the 2 days of talks held between the Israeli foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state last week. The new approach, consolidated by Dayan and his assistants on the eve of their trip to Washington, is intended to make possible the resumption of the deadlocked negotiations with Egypt.

The main points of the Israeli approach are:

A. The two parties should concentrate on points both agreed on, develop them, discuss their details and apply them.

B. Put off the negotiations on the disputed questions for a later date, in about 5 years, when the new situation that will develop in Judaea and Samaria in the wake of the implementation of most of the autonomy plan proposed by Israel will become clear.

C. To bypass the obstacle of the formulation of the declaration of principles, and to handle it at the end, after the substantive problems of the practical settlements are solved.

D. The negotiations will be conducted through "quiet diplomacy," especially through the Americans.

The assumption on which both the Americans and the Israelis based themselves in the talks was that the question of settlements in the Sinai will not constitute an obstacle if an agreement is reached on Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. At this stage President as-Sadat is not able to follow the road of a separate settlement with Israel.

Minister Dayan suggested that the decision as to whether a public referendum should be held in the West Bank be postponed for 5 years. In the meantime Israel suggests that the autonomy plan be put into practice and that attempts be made to establish a new reality in the region that will serve as a basis for negotiations 5 years hence. This holds true also for the presence of an Israeli army in Judaea and Samaria.

"Let us leave the issue open," Dayan proposed to the Americans. In the meantime, the IDF will withdraw from the Arab settlements to camps in Judaea and Samaria, and after 5 years, negotiations regarding the question of Israel's military presence will be resumed.

The questions on which it is impossible to reach an agreement now will be included in the agreement as vaguely worded clauses so as to leave a wide space for future bargaining.

At the conclusion of the talks it was agreed that the U.S. administration will examine the Israeli proposals, will express its opinion about them and will also ask for Egypt's opinion.

POST COMMENTS ON CHANGE IN CARTER STANCE ON PLANE DEAL

TA301616Y Jerusalem POST in English 30 Apr 78 p 8 TA

[Editorial]

[Text] The Carter administration's last minute softening of its all-or-nothing stance in seeking congressional approval for its proposal to sell advanced fighter planes to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia should not be misinterpreted.

As welcome as the move may be to Jerusalem it should not be seen as a concession to Israel as much as belated recognition of the very real opposition in the Senate to America's becoming a major arms supplier to the Arab world.

There is much support for Israel in the Senate, as there is in the House, but in the present case there is also deep-seated suspicion in regard to the lack of wisdom U.S. administrations have shown in the recent past in being sucked into situations of arming both sides to various regional disputes. The situation in Greece and Turkey is a most telling case in point.

It is not at all clear as yet whether President Carter would be willing to abide by a congressional vote which would approve only part of the proposed sales. Beyond the Israeli-Arab issue, there is also the question of the delicate division of power between the executive and legislative branches on a very important aspect of American foreign policy. But the fact that the two houses of Congress will be given more of an opportunity to consider the three cases on their separate merits should be welcomed.

The merits of the sale of F-15's and F-16's to Israel are simple in their clarity. They constitute partial implementation of an explicit American commitment to Israel dating from the fall of 1975 in return for Israel's agreeing to withdraw from the Abu Rudays oilfields and the Giddi and Mitla passes as part of the second Sinai agreement with Egypt.

It is ironic that the Carter administration which has accused Mr Begin of attempting to go back on the established Israeli position on Resolution 242 should be guilty of the same blemish in consistently reneging on commitments given to Israel by past administrations. The present attempt to link the sale of planes to Israel with the sales to Egypt and Saudi Arabia is only the last in a long list of such volte-faces.

Such American inconsistency has been repeated often enough by the present administration in other foreign policy areas to warrant reasonable concern in the Senate.

The need for such concern is heightened all the more in regard to the proposed warplane sales to Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The argument that Egypt may be forced back to accepting arms from the Soviet Union if its army is not re-equipped by the U.S. is fairly reasonable.

What is not reasonable is the timing. American readiness to rearm Egypt could serve as a major lever in the hands of the U.S. to get As-Sadat to move towards a reasonable compromise with Israel. Making the promise of such rearming at this time, before Egypt has agreed to moderate its opening position, can only be interpreted to mean that the U.S. administration has no intention of using such a lever.

It should be quite clear to anyone interested in a successful outcome to the current peace initiative that in the absence of visible American pressure on Egypt to moderate its stand, Israel will reject such pressures against herself for unilateral concessions. This is certainly not what President Carter is aiming at.

The F-15's to Saudi Arabia are the most dangerous part of the Carter package. These are extremely sophisticated and deadly planes, which the Saudis do not need for their own defence and indeed cannot operate on their own and which can only be conceived of as serving the needs of a general Arab arsenal on the eastern front against Israel: previous experience with the "conditional" sale of French Mirage fighters to Libya makes the argument that Saudi Arabia will promise not to make these planes available to other Arab countries nothing short of ludicrous.

The Carter administration's latest tactical move has still not altered Israel's assessment of the situation: It is important to obtain approval for the planes promised to Israel, it is of even greater importance to prevent the sale of American warplanes to Egypt and Saudi Arabia; and if need be, as assessment of the tactical situation may indicate, Israel should be ready to waive its demand for F-15's and F-16's for the meantime if that is the only way to prevent, or delay, the Egyptian and Saudi sales.

Jerusalem Cautious on Change

TA301508Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 30 Apr 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Yo'el Marcus, U.S. correspondent]

[Excerpt] The HA'AREZ political correspondent reports:

Senior elements in the prime minister's office recommended yesterday that one not be excessively impressed by the decision of President Carter to submit the requests for arms sales to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia separately to the Congress. The elements remarked that Carter's move is primarily aimed at improving his contacts with the Congress and that it does not express a retreat from the decision to sell arms to Saudi Arabia and Egypt alongside the arms sale to Israel. The same sources stressed that the executive authority to prevent arms supplies to Israel, in case Congress rejects the request to supply arms to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, remains in Carter's hands.

MIDEAST STANCE WILL LEAD TO GREATER U.S. INVOLVEMENT

TA280838Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 27 Apr 78 p 13 TA

[Poles commentary]

[Text] There are Israelis who interpret the government's policy as a planned expression for the direction that is still suppose to be concealed from the public, but which will be discovered in the not too distant future: the total freeze between Cairo and Jerusalem, which neither party wants, or dares thaw by being the first to concede. Of necessity this will lead the U.S. administration to present a plan of its own.

As-Sadat's statements that the United States must be "a full partner" in the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations in any case reflects the intention and the hope that if the United States adopts such a status (in other words stops limiting itself to the role of "mediator" only), Jerusalem would respond to U.S. pressure which it would not be able to bear for long; while Israel, commentators of the above-mentioned opinion claim, finds it hard to make concessions to Egypt, and easier to consider Washington's wishes.

That is how they reach the conclusion that the government in general and prime minister in particular are ultimately aiming to bring about more active U.S. involvement. Since that is pictured in their mind as an inevitable development, they think the forecast result is already directing the government's moves.

In short: Israel is secretly wishing to be forced by the United States, and all the criticism our official spokesmen are making against the United States is only for show.

The interpretation might seem quite reasonable. After all, people find it hard to believe that the top of the government, and Mr Begin at the head, is incapable of observing the greater influence of the United States as compared to the influence Israel and U.S. Jewry could put on the scales, if things reached a confrontation between Jerusalem and Washington.

Moreover, many people are holding a kind of firm bias that what is taking place publicly is not actual reality--it cannot be that things are determined by public speeches and things are told in black and white on paper. What really counts is what happens "behind the scenes," and there, as we have said, things are developing toward the crystallization of independent U.S. activity that Egypt will outwardly regard sourly, and which Israel will cry bloody murder about, but which will ultimately make the two Mediterranean countries breathe deeply in the event the United States forces its solution on them.

This version is naturally gaining a great deal of strength as a result of statements by senior U.S. statesmen, who often hint that if Israel and Egypt do not reach a common ground some way, the United States will present its own proposals. These remarks reflect, of course, the threat of the U.S. exerting pressure--pressure that both Egypt and Israel would not be able to stand.

It is possible that we might reach this stage in the development of "the political process" which began with the visit of Egypt's president in Jerusalem, and that the navigators of U.S. policy might overcome all of the hesitations that have prevented them from going in that direction so far. However, it is still very doubtful if the honorable Begin and Dayan are weighing their steps in the light of such veiled intentions.

Indeed, there is room to assume that the foreign minister is sensitive to what is taking place at the senior U.S. administration level, more so than the prime minister. It seems that the foreign minister would have found it easier to accept the necessity of not allowing our attitude toward the U.S. administration to deteriorate to the absolute bottom of a head-on confrontation with the U.S. administration.

However, this is no reason to attribute to Mr Dayan the trend of directing U.S. policy toward the stream of a forced solution, because deep inside he allegedly believes that only in this way would it be possible to reach a modus vivendi with Egypt and the other Arab countries that are not members of the "rejectionist front."

For the time being the government is acting under the inspiration and the direction of the prime minister. All the foreign minister and the defense minister are doing is still in accord with Mr Begin's line of thinking. The prime minister has no interest in disrupting 'Ezer Weizman's efforts. These efforts are helping Begin claim that Israel is very careful not to disconnect the cord that still links it with the Egyptian administration. When Mr Dayan received the prime minister's approval to clarify, in his directives which have been known for a week, that Israel is ready to negotiate with Jordan as well on the basis of Security Council Resolution 242--he was quick to state that the autonomy plan Mr Begin has for the Judaea, Samaria and Gaza Strip Arabs is in accordance with that resolution.

As long as the foreign minister follows this statement, even though it calls for "removing armed forces" from the territories, and so on, whereas the autonomy plan says that these forces will continue to be responsible for security and public order within the autonomous rule, it seems that Mr Dayan's way is basically no different from the prime minister's way.

The crux of the matter still lies in this--Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. Official Washington does not doubt that the problems that still exist between Cairo and Jerusalem may find a solution in bilateral negotiations, and that U.S. involvement may at most be needed at the last stage of these contacts. By the way, the U.S. leadership acts similarly even with regard to the question raised by Israel's military operation in southern Lebanon. Since the United States initiated Security Council Resolution 425, it has not been showing too much activity in this respect, leaving the working out of the details to implement that resolution to the United Nations. However, it shows an active interest in the future of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, which cannot be disconnected from the Palestinian issue.

"The Aswan formula" refers first and foremost to the Palestinian issue. It says that the solution must allow the Palestinians to "participate in determining their own future." People here rightly say that this formula does not carry a recognition of the right for self-determination. The U.S. idea that a "referendum" which, in their opinion (so far), is to take place after some time, will prevent the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state as an alternative, proves that the heads of the U.S. leadership agree with Israel's position on this matter.

However, thanks to the removal of this alternative, "the Aswan formula" suits President Carter's political line, which, since his speech in Clinton in March 1977, advocates a "homeland" for the Palestinians which will be incorporated in the Hashemite Jordanian Kingdom. This means that the U.S. policy seeks to solve two problems: the problem of the "identity" of the Arabs in Eretz Yisra'el; and sovereignty over the West Bank and Gaza Strip areas. The "homeland" is intended to give the local population an identity of its own, while the constitutional affiliation to Jordan is intended to solve the problem of sovereignty over territories that were, up to the 6-day war, beyond Israeli sovereignty.

The U.S. policy takes into account Israel's objection to the creation of a "third" country between Israel and Jordan that might fall into the hands of the PLO. It seems that the "partial information" Mr Dayan mentioned the day before yesterday, before he left for Washington, saying that the United States is prepared to have an Israeli military presence in these territories for a prolonged period, stems from the Israeli positions that Israel's security fears must be considered if the Palestinians are given "a homeland" and sovereignty over the territories concerned is given to Jordan (even if U.S. sources have refrained from giving this as the reason for their readiness). However, the "Aswan formula" seems to the U.S. administration to be a maximum concession to Israel, in light of the more far-reaching demand by Egypt.

The prime minister, as far as can be discerned, continues to object to these two U.S. intentions: his autonomy plan clearly says that it leaves the problem of sovereignty over the territories "open"; and as for the Palestinian identity, he thinks the autonomy suggested in his plan in the field of civil services will provide an answer to their desires. The readiness to negotiate with Jordan on the basis of Resolution 242 cannot cover over the fact that on two major issues U.S. policy and Israel's policy are already in a clear state of confrontation.

The Israeli readiness to discuss the issues of the West Bank and Gaza in a working group that would comprise Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el (as stated in the U.S.-Israeli "working paper" of October 5, 1977), does not indicate how Israel sees the result of those deliberations.

At this stage it is not significant that this agreement was signed at a time when Jerusalem and Washington still believed the Arab-Israeli conflict would be discussed at the Geneva conference, and that As-Sadat's initiative later pushed aside such a possibility. Even if such a working group does convene in some framework outside the Geneva conference, it is conceivable that Mr Begin would stand firm and insist that his autonomy plan be presented in these discussions as the Israeli plan.

The foreign minister sometimes says that he would be ready to listen to other Arab suggestions, and there is ground to believe the theory according to which he does not regard the autonomy plan as the prime minister had formulated it as a plan that cannot be altered, but it seems that Mr Begin is not ready for any such thing. The only flexibility he demonstrates is expressed in the formula he keeps repeating, that "everything is open for negotiations."

However, one cannot tell from his words how he would be willing to come toward the opponent in these negotiations. He is careful not to present his peace plan as an ultimatum, but his complaint about As-Sadat's making ultimative demands is weakening in light of the unyielding-type symptoms in his own style when he presents his plan.

There is no way of knowing for certain how the U.S. leadership would react to Mr Dayan's arguments or to those of the prime minister. Perhaps President Carter would shun direct confrontation with Israeli and with U.S. Jewry. However, it is very doubtful if we would be redeemed by continuing the current freeze. We would in any case not be able to carry out the autonomy plan unilaterally--in other words, without an Egyptian agreement Arabs will not be found who would be willing to be elected to its institutions--and the continuation of the status quo in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip would only worsen our international situation.

Under these circumstances the Egyptian president might be pushed to take the military option as the only way that would enable him to divert the attention of Egyptian and pan-Arab public opinion from the failure of his peace initiative. Mr Begin, who at the time went out of his way to point to As-Sadat's words "no more war," might find himself facing the danger of war--and in such a war we would not enjoy the sympathy of the Western world.

CABINET DECISIONS ON W. BANK SETTLEMENT REVIEWED

TA3020115 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 30 Apr 78 p 2 TA

[By 'Amir Shapira]

[Text] In the wake of the reports about the demand by Gush Emunim that the government discuss the status of the Shilo settlement, a government source told the 'AL HAMISHMAR correspondent at the end of the week that just before the DMC joined the government, on 23 October 1977, the Israeli Government decided, in principle, to approve 10 additional sites for settlement in Judaea and Samaria, and that Shilo is included on the list.

The decision in principle did not oblige the government to carry out settlements at those sites but serves as a basis for decisions--when these are taken--to set up additional settlements according to the policy and the timing determined by the government.

On the eve of the DMC's cooption into the government, on 23 October 1977, the Israeli Government took a decision in principle about the approval of the 10 additional settlement sites in Judaea and Samaria. The decision was taken at a meeting that was a continuation of an earlier meeting dealing with the settlements issue inside army camps. The list of the 10 settlements that was prepared by a ministerial committee and submitted to the government by Minister Sharon, included the following sites: Bazaq, Dotan, Tirza (Mahane Yosef), Hares, Tapu'ah, Silat Az Zahr, Shilo, Adorayim, Rehan B and Ma'ale Horon (south of Nabulus). Of the settlements mentioned in "the list of 10" that was decided on in principle, three were later submitted for approval by the government (the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee). These three--Hares, Tapu'ah and Silat Az Zahr--had the highest priority from the security point of view (they are situated in strategic locations) and their establishment as military posts was approved.

A reliable source who disclosed this said that the proposal originally spoke of Hares, Tapu'ah and Shilo as sites for the establishment of additional settlements, but when it was decided that the three settlements would be established as military posts, Shilo was dropped from the list and Silat Az Zahr, with its clear importance from the security aspect, was agreed on.

I learned that the affair of the "10 settlements" stemmed from quick government actions meant to precede the joining of the coalition by the DMC. The aim was to take a basic decision on a sensitive issue, which it was clear the DMC might be able to foil once it was in the government. (An indication for this was clearly made to the government later on when the DMC objected in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee to the establishment of the three posts drawn from the list of 10)

As mentioned, the list of 10 approved settlements also included Shilo, and this decision has not been canceled to date, just as it was not submitted for specific approval as is customary according to the procedures for endorsing the decisions of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs, decisions that are submitted to the government as concrete proposals.

On the basis of the decision concerning the "10 settlements" and on the basis of remarks made by high-ranking personages about the government's intention to set up a settlement in Shilo, the Shilo nucleus members who were waiting in 'Ofra (as a temporary camp) were presented with the proposal to move to Shilo as a group of excavators. After receiving their agreement, Dr Yevin, who was to head the group, met with Defense Ministry officials the beginning of November and presented them with a plan (of needs and means) costing over 500,000 Israeli pounds. Within a few days, one of the cabinet members announced that the financing for the plan had been provided by the Education Ministry with the consent of Minister Hammer.

On 30 December the Defense Ministry decided to accept the proposal and to recommend that a camp for excavators be established at Shilo, but it was decided to delay this until the cabinet meeting on 8 January 1978 that was intended to deal with clarifications pertaining to the issue of the fleshing out of settlements in the Rafah approaches and the setting up of the footholds in Qidmat Sinai. On the same day, 8 January, the Shilo settlers moved to the site without the approval and knowledge of the authorized elements.

Only a few weeks later, after the storm that rose in the wake of the tree-planting ceremony on 15 Shevat [Arbor Day, 23 January] and the laying of the cornerstone for a town in Samaria (22 January), did the government adopt a decision approving the presence of the settlers there as an archeological mission.

Gush Emunim leaders reported that in the coming days they will launch a campaign to pressure the government to deal again with the issue of Shilo and to take a decision to change the status of the site from that of an archeological camp to a recognized settlement. In the past week further development activity, including the paving of internal road, was carried out at the site. There is equipment there which does not belong to the Jewish National Fund, it is there to continue the activity.

I learned from an authoritative Gush Emunim source that the Gush Emunim settlement committee has located two alternative sites for the establishment of Shilo (when it is approved as a settlement). One alternative requires shifting eastward to the other side of the mountain ridge on the slopes of which the trailer camp was set up. The other, more desirable alternative, is a site located 3 km to the west, not far from the village of Qerayot on the Nabulus-Ramallah road, where a plot of state-owned land of a size suitable for the establishment of a settlement was located.

1200-KILOWATT ABADAN TRANSMITTER INAUGURATED

LD2813522 Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 28 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Coupled with felicitations on the auspicious birthday of His Imperial Highness Prince Ali-Reza Pahlavi, the National Iranian Radio and Television Organization (NIRTO) informs the citizens about the inauguration of the powerful 1200-kilowatt Abadan transmitter of the Voice of Iran's international program. This radio, with its two 600-kilowatt transmitters, having a [combined] power of 1200 kilowatts--will broadcast the Voice of Iran in the Persian, Arabic and English languages to western Asia and North Africa.

The Voice of Iran's international program's powerful 1200-kilowatt transmitter will broadcast programs for 19 hours a day. The Voice of Iran's news in Persian will be broadcast at 0800, 1400 and 2400 hours [0300, 0900 and 1900 GMT] by this powerful radio.

The Arabic programs of the Voice of Iran's international radio will be broadcast in two parts for a period of 8 hours a day. The English programs, which are broadcast for the benefit of enthusiasts in western Asia and North Africa, consist of news, music and various features. Similarly, the radio's Arabic programs will be broadcast in a modern way and with greater opportunities as compared with the past.

The Voice of Iran's international program from Adaban will begin its broadcasts from 0600 hours [0100 GMT] daily on medium wave 521 meters, 576 kilohertz, and from 1900 hours [1400 GMT] on medium wave 278 meters, 1080 kilohertz.

IRAQI AIR COMMANDER LEAVES IRAN AFTER VISIT

LD2710062 Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 27 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Maj Gen Hamid Sha'ban, commander of the Iraqi Air Force, who was visiting our country at the invitation of Lt Gen Amir-Hoseyn Rabi'i, commander of the Imperial Iranian Air Force, left Teheran this morning. The Iraqi Air Force commander was seen off at Mehrabad Airport by the Imperial Iranian Air Force commander and senior officers from the imperial Iranian Armed Forces. Before his departure from Teheran, Maj Gen Hamid Sha'ban told our reporter:

[Shab'an--begin recording] My visit took place in response to an invitation from the commander of the Imperial Iranian Air Force. Its aim was to further develop the profound and historic relations between Iran and Iraq. I have seen your country's achievements, progress and prosperity. Such visits will strengthen the ties of friendship and brotherhood between the Iranian and Iraqi nations who enjoy longstanding and firm historic and religious bonds. [end recording]

FOREIGN MINISTER KHAL'ATBARI LEAVES FOR MOROCCO

LD2710002 Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 27 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Khal'Atbari left Teheran for Morocco today at the invitation of his Moroccan opposite number. He was seen off at Mehrabad Airport by the Moroccan ambassador to the imperial court and several Foreign Ministry officials.

Concludes Visit

LD3022342 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Apr 78 LD

[Text] The Iranian foreign minister concluded his visit to Morocco and left Marrakesh Airport this evening for Paris.

AFGHANISTAN

PRIME MINISTER APPOINTED; NAME OF COUNTRY CHANGED

BK3014427 Kabul in English to South Asia 1427 GMT 30 Apr 78 BK

[Text] This is Radio Afghanistan, Kabul. Here is an important news item:

In the name of Almighty God, Decree No 1 of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan dated [Afgan calender date not clear], corresponding to 30 April 1978:

The Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in its first meeting elected Nur Mohammad Taraki [top Afgan Communist Party leader], the great nationalist and revolutionary of Afghanistan, as the president of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, who, at the same time, is also the chief of the government--that is prime minister.

The Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, as the supreme governmental power of the country, in its first historic meeting as the [words indistinct] representing the movement of the people of Afghanistan, resolved unanimously that:

1. As of this date [Afgan calender date indistinct], corresponding to 30 April 1978, Afghanistan from the viewpoint of political organization (?is) called the Democratic Republican State of Afghanistan.

2. The government has devised the executive power of the country (?is) elected by the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is called the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. [sentence as heard]

The government is responsible to the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

3. The Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan resolved unanimously that pending later pronouncements military regulations remain in force throughout the country.

4. The Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan shall elect, as soon as possible, the vice president for the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan vis-a-vis of the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the members of the government, and it will adopt and announce its policy.

5. For the present, higher affairs of the state and government shall be executed through decrees of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

MILITARY COUNCIL DEFINES DOMESTIC, FOREIGN POLICY

BK2914427 Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 29 Apr 78 BK

[Text] You are tuned to the Radio Afghanistan, Kabul:

The Revolutionary Council of the armed forces, in a declaration of 28th April 1978, said:

In the name of Almighty God, the Revolutionary Military Council of the national armed forces of Afghanistan declares that the domestic policy of the Revolutionary Military Council of the national armed forces of Afghanistan (?rests) upon the preservation of the principles of the sacred (?teachings) of Islam, establishment of democracy, freedom and (?security) of the individual and the promotion of advancement and progress of our beloved people of Afghanistan.

The foreign policy of the Revolutionary Military Council of the national armed forces of Afghanistan consists of the persuance of the policy of positive active neutrality, supporting peace in the region and world, (?cooperation) and friendship with all countries on the basis of amicable coexistence and respect of the United Nations Charter.

KABUL RADIO SAYS LIFE NORMAL, ARMY IN CONTROL

JN3010527 Kabul in Arabic to the Arab World 1000 GMT 30 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The Afgani people throughout the country have received the revolution of the Afghan national armed forces with rejoicing. The BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY correspondent says that complete order and security prevail throughout the country.

The Afgan people throughout the country are receiving the heroes of the revolution and the brave armed forces with very warm feelings.

Since yesterday morning thousands of people in the center of Kabul have seen the positions in which the supporters of the tyrant Mohammad Daud and his fake republic were destroyed. The destroyed [words indistinct] palace is also being seen from a distance. [words indistinct]

The BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY correspondent says that the national armed forces are in complete control of the situation in the country and that there has been no delay or fault in the affairs of the government departments and the people's daily work.

Government officials, workers, university students and craftsmen have resumed their work as of yesterday morning. They congratulated each other on the triumph of the great revolution of the national armed forces. Their faces reflected their joy and confidence in the future.

The agency correspondent adds that all commercial areas, including provision stores, were open to clients. There was not the slightest interruption to supply and demand. Everybody was busy pursuing his work as usual.

KABUL RADIO: SOVIET UNION RECOGNIZES NEW GOVERNMENT

LD3018367 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1610 GMT 30 Apr 78 LD

[Text] The Government of the USSR has officially recognized the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. His Excellency Aleksandr Mikhaylovich Puzanov, the Soviet ambassador in Kabul, met with Mr Nur Mohammad Taraki, the chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, at 1930 at his office today and presented him with a message from his government.

The message states that the [Soviet] Government bases its action on the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries. With respect to the right of nations to decide the solution of their internal issues, it officially recognizes the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

AFGAN DIPLOMAT DENIES COUPISTS LINKED WITH SOVIET UNION

NC3010402 Doha QNA in Arabic 1005 GMT 30 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 30 April--An Afgan diplomat has denied allegations that last Thursday's coup in Afghanistan is a leftist coup linked to the Soviet Union. He said: "It is a nationalist coup committed to Islam."

The diplomat, Afghanistan's charge d'affaires in Egypt Mohammad Rahim Shirzoy, said in a statement published in today's issue of the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH that contrary to agency reports, the coupists are nationalists who have no links or relations with any foreign powers.

NEW GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES DEATH OF MINISTERS

LD291822Y Kabul Domestic Service in Pushtu 1630 GMT 29 Apr 78 LD

[Text] (?On the order of the Revolutionary Military Council), the vice president of Mohammad Daud's regime, Seyyed Abdol Elah; the minister of defense, Lt Gen Ghulam Haidar Rasuli; the minister of interior, Abdol Qadir; and the air force and air defense commander, Lt Gen Mohammad Musa, who refused to surrender themselves despite the repeated call by the Revolutionary Military Council, were killed due to their maniacal and self-interested resistance.

PROMINENT RELIGIOUS LEADER SHOT IN KABUL

BK0103462 Hong Kong AFP in English 0342 GMT 1 May 78 BK

[Text] April 30 (AFP)--A leading Afgan religious figure, Maulana Gul Mohammad Shah Afghani, was shot dead on the orders of the new regime in Kabul last Thursday [27 April] according to a delayed report received here today..

The maulana, who headed a rightist religio-political party called Jamiat Ahle Hadith, had reportedly opposed what he called the "leftist-sponsored" coup and declared a "religious war" against the new regime.

He was arrested and shot dead on the orders of the Revolutionary Council, a press release issued by Jamiat Ahle Hadith's Pakistan branch said today.

NAME OF RADIO STATION CHANGED; DAUD DENOUNCED

BK2910542 Delni General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 29 Apr 78 BK

[Excerpts] The new [Afgan] regime has changed the name of the radio station from Aryana Afghanistan National Radio-Television to Radio Afghanistan, Kabul.

In another broadcast last night, the radio criticized Daud as the greatest tyrant of the (Nadir) dynasty. It said that the last representative of his family has been banished from Afghanistan forever.

BANGLADESH

TEXT OF ZIA'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON PRESIDENTIAL POLLS

BK291540Y Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 Apr 78 pp 1, 12 BK

[Text] Following is the text of President Ziaur Rahman's address to the nation on Friday [21 April] night:

Mr dear countrymen, assalamu alaikum.

In my address on December 15 last I have informed you in detail about the principles and programme of my government. At the same time, I had tried to give some indication of the possibilities of future development of the country. I have the confidence that as a great organised force of the people imbued with patriotism, we shall be able to achieve the impossibilities by our own efforts. This is my firm belief that the future will be nobler than the past. May Allah give us the capability to materialise our bright prospects for the benefit of ourselves and our children.

It is a matter of great fortune that the nation is continuing its efforts for solving various problems and to accelerate the pace of development. The principle that "people are the source of all power," is being proved in deeds. Decentralisation of administration, making the local governments more responsible and established and the self-reliant development projects are the best example of it.

The world public opinion, abandoning past attitude of scorn, have started to look with respect towards the people of Bangladesh because of the will to work and development spirit shown by them during the last 2 and a half years after overcoming the frustrations of the postliberation periods. I believe time has come for evolving a correct political direction in order to consolidate this awakened force and their will to work in the interest of the nation and to lead them towards our desired goal and towards a bright future as well as to protect the nation from the repetitions of past errors. The country must be led on the path of democracy by filling up the existing political vacuum.

Meanwhile, I had opportunities to go abroad a number of times. Many heads of state and government and other distinguished guests also have visited Bangladesh. Today our relationship with all the countries of the world, including the Moslem countries, has been considerably strengthened, and our prestige has soared in the comity of nations because of our present foreign policy. This situation has to be fully utilized in building the country.

I have extensively toured the country in order to expedite the pace of development work after acquainting myself with the real conditions in the country and knowing the grievances and demands of the people.

Necessary measures have been and are being taken to remove negligence and aversion to duty at all levels of administration. I have issued firm directives that all developmental work undertaken by the government must be implemented within the stipulated time. Tasks set for this year must be completed within this year. The local government has to gradually shoulder more responsibility in this respect, and necessary administrative and planning measures are being taken to put it into effect. Under our proposed measures, the thana and union level units will be given the utmost importance. These measures will be reflected in the 2-year plan for 1978-80. The closer the administration can be brought to the people, the better for the government and the people. We are proving this principle through positive steps.

During my extensive tour of the country, I have had direct discussion with the people about their problems and their hopes and aspirations. They will take time to forget the bitter experience of the past. Fulfillment of the nation's hopes and aspirations is only possible through progress towards democracy. To pave the way for it and in the interest of the national unity alone, I have sought the opinion of all sections of people about the proposed political front. I have got response from many. Discussions are under way with concerned leaders relating to the formation of the front. It is the desire of all that the foundation of constructive politics be laid on the basis of harmony and understanding, shunning the part of division and indiscipline.

It is my firm conviction that patriotic and democratic-minded political parties will come forward unitedly to consolidate the country's independence and sovereignty through the formation of a nationalist political front and build up strong resistance against the divisive forces.

I have observed that the indepndent and free-minded people of Bangladesh did not accept the politics and state system introduced through the Fourth Amendment of the constitution. One-party political system and annulment of the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in enforcing the fundamental rights, etc, were included in the Fourth Amendment. That is why I have already repealed these undemocratic provisions through different ordinances. I assure you that the state machinery will be properly run under the leadership of the president elected directly through adult franchise, while the sovereignty of the Parliament and independence of the judiciary will remain unimpaired. For this, the necessary amendments to the constitution will be introduced in due course. I further assure you that I shall fully protect the constitutional amendments which you had approved through the referendum last year.

There have been wide-ranging discussions in different stages on the question of whether the administration of the country should be run through a presidential system or parliamentary system. Different political leaders have freely expressed their opinion on this issue. Both the systems are undoubtedly guided by the tenets of democracy and in both the cases, the government is fully responsible to the people for all its actions. However, there are different types of democratic systems, and different countries have developed their own constitutional framework in the light of their own experience and requirements; and especially, they have done so in the interest of stability and development. It cannot be said that the constitutional framework followed in any particular country is the best and has to be limited whether it is the Parliament of the Westminster type or any other system. It is better to discuss the issue with an open mind by keeping only the national interest in view.

Keeping in view our own experiences, provisions will have to be made in the constitution and the administrative sector so that the gradually rising momentum and process of development activities in the country can continue without any hindrance, and there will be no undesirable interference in the law and order and other administrative fields. This is meant for keeping the arena of development and administration out of the influence of political rivalry and clashes of petty interests. Our constitution will be in need of such provisions wherein the president can exercise the power and execute the responsibility of the principal and chief executive of the government side by side with the sovereign Parliament and independent judiciary. A Council of Ministers will aid and assist and help the president in this respect, and the prime minister will have to discharge special responsibility.

The Election Commission have already been given instructions to take necessary measures to hold free and fair general elections in the country on the basis of adult franchise within December next as per my earlier announcement to facilitate the passage of democracy.

Political activities are indispensible for making preparation for the election and presenting party programmes before the people in order to ensure free and fair elections. So I am announcing the decision of lifting restrictions in phases on open political activities in phases from April 24. Under these circumstances, the unnecessary restrictions in the PPR [political parties regulations] will be withdrawn.

I hope, in the greater interests of the country, nobody will exploit this opportunity for his personal interests. All of you will have to keep vigil so that the miscreants and antipeople elements can not raise their ugly heads or create disturbances, nor they can put impediments in the way of democracy. It will be easier for the government to discharge its responsibilities if everyone remains alert.

It has been the general view that holding of the presidential election on the basis of direct adult franchise before the general elections will help form a stable government and pave the way for democracy. A decision has, therefore, been taken to hold the presidential election on June 3 next on the basis of direct adult franchise. It is a crucial test before the nation.

I hope the nation, through the combined efforts of all, will establish a decent tradition by conducting the presidential and general elections smoothly.

May Allah bless us.

Khuda Hafez.

Bangladesh Zindabad.

DELEGATION TO GO TO BURMA ON MOSLEM REFUGEE PROBLEM

BK3002262 Hong Kong AFP in English 1842 GMT 29 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Dacca, April 29 (AFP)--An official delegation from Bangladesh headed by the secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs is due to leave here for Rangoon for talks with Burmese authorities on the problem of the influx of Moslem refugees from Burma, it is learnt here today.

Meanwhile, a number of Burmese Moslems who have already crossed into Bangladesh and were staying in refugee camps and make-shift shelters in south-eastern bordering town of Cox's Bazar and adjoining areas, have risen to about 40,000 during the last few days.

Bangladesh authorities have sealed the border along Burma, but reports from Cox's Bazar indicate that hundreds of more Burmese Moslems were still slipping into Bangladesh territory quietly through inaccessible and hilly border areas in the face of the massive "dragon operation" by Burmese army and civil authorities to evict them from their homes.

Early this month Bangladesh Presidential Adviser for Local Government Kazi Anwarul Haq visited Burma as a special emissary to apprise Rangoon of the situation arising out of the influx of Burmese refugees. This was followed by a visit of the Burmese foreign minister to Bangladesh 2 weeks back to discuss the issue but apparently without any agreement.

FOREIGN SECRETARY RETURNS TO DACCA FROM USSR

BK2915102 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1205 GMT 29 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The Soviet Union has reaffirmed its desire to maintain relations and cooperate with Bangladesh on the basis of due respect of sovereign equality and noninterference in each other's affairs.

This was stated by the foreign secretary, Mr Tabarak Hussain, while talking to newsmen on his return home today from Moscow. He said during his stay in the Soviet capital he discussed and reviewed developments in international fields and also bilateral matters.

Bangladesh, he said, reaffirmed its desire to steadily build up relations with the Soviet Union. The (?review) of the forthcoming special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament and the issues that will come up in the meeting of the Non-alined Bureau also came up for discussion, he added.

INDIA

VAJPAYEE ON AFGAN EVENTS; NUCLEAR FUEL FOR TARAPORE

BK0108587Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 May 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister has said that the developments in Afghanistan are an internal affair of that country, although India is vitally concerned. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today on his return from the United Nations, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee said he is awaiting fuller details from Kabul.

He welcomed the American President, Mr Carter's prompt action in overruling the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission which had blocked the supply of enriched uranium to the Tarapore atomic powerplant. While pointing out that India has not been singled out on the question of nuclear fuel supplies, Mr Vajpayee said Tarapore is on a different footing because of contractual obligations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, according to Radio Kabul, all airports in Afghanistan have been reopened to scheduled flights of the international airlines.

CHARAN SINGH RESIGNS FROM JANATA PARTY

BK2916367Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Mr Charan Singh has resigned from the Janata Party National Executive and the party's Parliamentary Board. The letter of resignation was addressed to the party president, Mr Chandrashekher. But as Mr Chandrashekher is out of Delhi, the letter was delivered to the general secretary, Mr Madhu Limaye, this morning.

It is understood that Mr Charan Singh resigned following differences on the question of leadership of the Janata Legislature Party in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

In his resignation letter, Mr Charan Singh is understood to have said that the party leadership was hand in glove with the dissidents to overthrow Mr Devi Lal [chief minister of Haryana] from the day he assumed office. Mr Charan Singh is also understood to have alleged that the party high command wanted to seek Mr Devi Lal's ouster even at the cost of collaborating with Mr Bansi Lal. The party leadership connived at the attempt made by the dissidents to secure the defeat of the Janata Party candidate in the Karnal Lok Sabha elections. Similarly, the leadership was instigating a campaign of villification against the Uttar Pradesh chief minister, and, in the case of the Bihar chief minister, the party leadership was not taking action against those party members who were campaigning against the reservation of jobs for the backward classes.

Desai Meets With Singh

BK300906Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister called on the home minister, Mr Charan Singh, at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi today. He was with him for 25 minutes.

Later, talking to newsmen, Mr Desai said that there is no crisis in the Janata Party. He said he does not believe in crises. Crises are made only by the newspapers, he added.

Asked whether Mr Charan Singh has withdrawn his resignation, he said: How can I ask this question to a patient? Mr Charan Singh also did not raise this question, he added.

Vajpayee Makes Statement

BK300908Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee has said Mr Charan Singh's resignation from Janata Parliamentary Board and its national executive does not mean that the party is going to collapse.

Addressing a gathering of Indians at the Indian Consulate in New York yesterday, Mr Vajpayee said that during the recent discussions among the party leaders, it was found that there are no basic differences. We agree on fundamental policies and programs, and we are functioning as a team. Mr Vajpayee said the Janata Party is strong, and the government is stable. He said the Janata government has redeemed its pledges to the people and has restored democracy.

PAKISTAN

PRESS HOPES AFGAN TIES NOT AFFECTED BY COUP

BK291233Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1204 GMT 29 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, April 29 (AFP)--Pakistani newspapers today expressed the hope that the change of government in Afghanistan would not have any adverse effect on the good will created between Pakistan and Afghanistan in the recent past.

Commenting editorially on the bloody coup in the neighbouring Muslim country, the newspapers pointed out that the developments there were an internal affairs of Afghanistan.

But, the rightwing daily JANG, the paper with the largest circulation, said it was nevertheless a matter of regret that "thousands have met death in this bloody revolution." The paper said it was but natural for the Pakistani people to be concerned about the happenings in Afghanistan. Their anxiety would end only after they are certain that there will be no more bloodshed in that country.

Another rightwing daily, NAWA-I-WAQAT, said such sudden upheavals were inevitable in societies where basic institutions are stifled and democratic evolution suppressed.

The moderate English daily SUN said: "The army of 100,000 troops has a difficult task in that country which has a host of problems to contend with....We hope that Afghanistan is able to overcome them and accelerate its economic progress as a democracy."

The leftwing daily MUSAWAT, organ of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of jailed former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Buutto, made no mention of the Afghanistan coup in its editorial columns.

However, daily TAMEER, a pro-PPP paper, said President Daud was not sincere in his promises to make the people a partner in power, and internationally he was deviating from the traiditional policy of nonalinement. TAMEER said: "The impression had been growing over the last 1 and a half years that Sardar Daud was trying to leave the path of nonalinement in order to come closer to America and Western countries.

If the new regime strays and does not recognize the masses as the fountainhead of power, political instability will haunt Afghanistan, the daily TAMEER added.

PAKISTAN-AFGAN BORDER REOPENED AT TURKHAM

BK2915227 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Pakistan-Afghanistan border at Turkham has been reopened for light traffic, and the flow of traffic was reported to be normal.

This indicates that there are no disturbances in Afghanistan.

POLICE CLOSE DOWN OFFICES OF BHUTTO'S PARTY PAPER

BK3008447 Hong Kong AFP in English 1905 GMT 29 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Lahore, April 29 (AFP)--Police today closed down the offices of the defunct Urdu-language daily MUSWAT, organ of former Premier Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party, in a bid to prevent journalists and press workers from starting a hunger strike there to press for the restoration of the newspaper.

The daily MUSAWAT was banned recently and its editor and publisher arrested following publication of a statement of Begum Nusrat Bhutto, wife of the former prime minister, now under house arrest here.

The two national federations of journalists and press workers have demanded restoration of the newspaper and have threatened to start a hunger strike in the offices of the daily MUSAWAT from tomorrow (Sunday) unless the martial law authorities accepted their demands.

Recent meetings between the representatives of the two unions and the officials of the federal Information Ministry in Islamabad proved inconclusive. The agitating journalists and press workers, therefore, decided to go ahead with their hunger strike from tomorrow.

The government retaliated by seizing the offices of the daily MUSAWAT and deporting Mr Minhaj Barna, president of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists, from here to Karachi.

SRI LANKA

NONALINED MEETING SHIFTED FROM KABUL TO NEW YORK

BK2911077 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1050 GMT 29 Apr 78 BK

[Text] A Sri Lanka Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Colombo that the Nonalined Nations Ministerial Meeting, scheduled to meet in Kabul on the 6th of next month, is now likely to be held in New York.

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